



Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in History, Philosophy, and Politics



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ISBN: 978-1-928496-36-6

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/assaf.2021/0071>

© Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

May 2021

PO Box 72135, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria, South Africa, 0040

Tel: +27 12 349 6600 • Fax: +27 86 576 9520

E-mail: admin@assaf.org.za

Reproduction is permitted, provided the source and publisher are appropriately acknowledged.

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) was inaugurated in May 1996. It was formed in response to the need for an Academy of Science consonant with the dawn of democracy in South Africa: activist in its mission of using science and scholarship for the benefit of society, with a mandate encompassing all scholarly disciplines that use an open-minded and evidence-based approach to build knowledge. ASSAf thus adopted in its name the term 'science' in the singular as reflecting a common way of enquiring rather than an aggregation of different disciplines. Its members are elected on the basis of a combination of two principal criteria, academic excellence and significant contributions to society.

The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (No 67 of 2001), which came into force on 15 May 2002. This made ASSAf the only academy of science in South Africa officially recognised by government and representing the country in the international community of science academies and elsewhere.

page iii:	https://pixabay.com/photos/glasses-book-education-eyeglasses-1052010/
page v:	https://pixabay.com/photos/rustic-ancient-map-globe-3441673/
page vi:	https://pixabay.com/photos/philatelist-stamp-collection-stamp-1844080/
page xii:	https://pixabay.com/da/photos/nelson-mandela-statue-statue-831665/
page 8:	Route 67, Urban Renewal of Central Port Elizabeth, 20 May 2012, Suzi-k: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Port_Elizabeth_route_67_voting_line_sunrise.JPG
page 13:	https://pixabay.com/da/photos/skrivemaskine-skrivning-tekst-5260665/
page 22:	Route 67, Urban Renewal of Central Port Elizabeth, 10 May 2010, Suzi-k: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Port_Elizabeth_Route_67_voting_line.JPG
page 50:	Inked after voting in South Africa's 4th democratic elections. 22 April 2009, Darryn van der Walt: https://www.flickr.com/photos/calico182/3465337579/
page 89:	Route 67 Urban Renewal of Central Port Elizabeth, 20 May 2012, Suzi-k: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Port_Elizabeth_Route_67_light.JPG#/media/File:Port_Elizabeth_Route_67_light.JPG
page 107:	Route 67 Urban Renewal of Central Port Elizabeth, 20 May 2012, Suzi-k: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Port_Elizabeth_Route_67_giant_flag.JPG



Committee on Scholarly
Publishing in South Africa

Report on Grouped Peer Review
of Scholarly Journals in History,
Philosophy, and Politics

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS	4
PREFACE	5
FOREWORD	7
SYNOPSIS OF FINDINGS	8
OVERALL SUMMARY	11
1. Periodic Peer Review of South African Scholarly Journals: Approved Process Guidelines and Criteria	13
1.1 Background	13
1.2 ASSAf Peer Review Panels	13
1.3 Initial Criteria	14
1.3.1 Editorial Process-related Criteria: Generally Based on the Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review Developed by ASSAf	14
1.3.2 Business-Related Criteria	14
1.3.3 Bibliometric Assessments	15
1.4 Process Guidelines for Setting up the Panels, Peer Reviewers, Panel Meetings and Reports for the Subject Peer Review of Journals	15
1.4.1 Background to ASSAf PRPs	15
1.4.2 Role of the Scholarly Publishing Unit	15
1.4.3 Set-up of Panels	15
1.4.4 Selection of Panel Members	16
1.4.5 Criteria for Membership	16
1.4.6 Conflicts of Interest	16
1.4.7 Organisation of the Panels	16
1.4.9 Panel Meetings and Procedures	17
1.4.10 Post-meeting Procedures and Panel Reports	18
2. Special Considerations Concerning South African History, Philosophy and Politics Journals ..	19
3. Panel Members	21
4. Consensus Reviews of Journals in the Group	23
4.1 History	23
4.1.1 African Historical Review	23
4.1.2 Historia: Journal of the Historical Association of South Africa	26
4.1.3 Journal for Contemporary History - journal title since 2019 is Southern Journal of Contemporary History	28
4.1.4 Journal of Natal and Zulu History	32
4.1.5 Kronos: Southern African Histories	36
4.1.6 New Contree	38

4.1.7	South African Historical Journal	43
4.1.8	Yesterday and Today	46
4.2	International Studies & Multidisciplinary	52
4.2.1	African Studies	52
4.2.2	International Journal of African Renaissance Studies: Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity	54
4.2.3	Journal of African Elections	58
4.2.4	South African Journal of International Affairs	60
4.2.5	Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa	63
4.3	Philosophy	66
4.3.1	Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology	66
4.3.2	Philosophical Papers	69
4.3.3	Phronimon	72
4.3.4	South African Journal of Philosophy	74
4.4	Politics	78
4.4.1	Politeia: South African Journal for Political Science and Public Administration	78
4.4.2	Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies	81
4.4.3	Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory	85
4.5	Security and Policing	91
4.5.1	African Journal on Conflict Resolution	91
4.5.2	African Security Review	93
4.5.3	Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies	96
4.5.4	Strategic Review for Southern Africa	99
4.5.5	South African Crime Quarterly	102
APPENDIX A		108
Questionnaire Sent to Editors of Journals under Review		108
APPENDIX B:		111
Requests to Independent Peer Reviewers		111

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AJOL	African Journals Online
APCs	Article-processing charges
ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa
COPE	Committee on Publication Ethics
CC	Creative Commons
CSPiSA	Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DOAJ	Directory of Open Access Journals
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
EBSCOhost	Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCOhost) Research Databases
ESCI	Emerging Sources Citation Index
IBSS	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
NISC	National Inquiry Services Centre
NWU	North-West University
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSEF	National Scholarly Editors' Forum
OJS	Open Journal Systems
PRP	Peer Review Panel
Sabinet	South African Bibliographic and Information Network
SciELO SA	Scientific Electronic Library Online South Africa
SJR	SCImago Journal Rank
SNIP	Source Normalised Impact per Paper
STAR	Special Terms for Authors and Researchers
Unisa	University of South Africa
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WoS	Web of Science Citation Index



PREFACE

Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA)

Discipline-grouped Peer-review Reports on South African Scholarly Journals

This is the eleventh in the series of discipline-grouped evaluations of South African scholarly journals. Eventually, it is hoped that all scholarly journals in the country will have been subjected to independent, multiple peer review as part of a quality assurance process initiated by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The quality assurance process is a precursor to the identification of journal titles to be loaded on to the open access platform, Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) South Africa. Only open access journals of sufficiently high quality will be included in this fully indexed, free online, multinational platform, now also directly featured on Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science portal.

The traditional focus of peer review is on a single journal article, book chapter, or book. It is less common to subject journals to independent, multiple peer review, as these are usually evaluated in qualitative, reputational terms, or bibliometrically, by means of impact factors.

The peer review of South African scholarly journal titles thus required the development of a new methodology that was piloted successfully with the first two discipline-grouped peer review reports, published in 2010, on *the Social Sciences and Related Fields*, and the *Agricultural and Related Basic Life Sciences*. This work was not achieved without difficulty, as the process was unfamiliar to reviewers accustomed to reviewing single articles.

ASSAf has confidence in this ambitious programme, which is aimed at ensuring that the bulk of South African scholarly journals are of high quality. The process goes beyond the familiar journal assessment approaches mentioned above by providing concrete recommendations to enable the editor(s) of journals, especially those not deemed to be of a sufficient standard, to take corrective action and provides an opportunity for them to reapply for evaluation.

The process centred on multi-perspective, discipline-based evaluation panels appointed by the Academy Council on the recommendation of the Academy's CSPiSA; journal Editors were requested to complete specially designed questionnaires, and peer reviewers were selected from a spectrum of scholars in the fields concerned. Each editor was asked to provide answers to a set of questions, which were used to address the scope and focus of the peer-reviewed articles in the journals under review, the authorship generally, and the presence or absence of enrichment features, such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, and news and views articles. (The editors' questionnaire and peer reviewers' set of questions are appended to this report.)

Each discipline-based evaluation panel met to discuss the individual peer reviews and questionnaires and consolidated them into a consensus review for each journal. Final formulations and recommendations were prepared, including suggestions for improvement from both the peer reviewers and the panel. The responsible editors were given an opportunity to check the accuracy of the information in each individual journal report, and the final version of the report was submitted for approval to the ASSAf CSPiSA and the Council of ASSAf.

As the latest in the series of reports, it is evident that much has been learned from the previous discipline groups and that, going forward, the process will become more streamlined, such that subsequent reports will follow in rapid succession.

I would like to thank the Chair of the Panel, Prof Tilman Dederig, and members of the Evaluation Panel, and particularly Prof Robin Crewe, who is responsible for overseeing ASSAf's peer review panels' activities, for his leadership in this quality assurance process. I acknowledge the important role played by the staff of the Academy in supporting the process, in particular, Mrs Susan Veldsman, Director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit, and the Project Officer who worked under her direction, namely, Ms Mmaphuthi Mashiachidi. Finally, I acknowledge the contribution of the many individual peer reviewers who have each contributed towards strengthening the quality of South African scholarly journals.

Prof Himla Soodyall

Executive Officer: Academy of Science of South Africa



FOREWORD

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) congratulates ASSAf for yet another discipline-grouped peer review report. The report is aimed at improving the quality of the journals in our higher education system, thereby influencing the standard of research conducted in the respective fields. It is in the interests of our higher education system and society in general that the quality of research conducted in the system should be continuously improved.

The DHET published the Research Outputs Policy (2015) in the Government Gazette (Vol 597, No 38552). The policy, which is a revised version of the Policy and Procedures for Measurement of Research Output of Public Higher Education Institutions of 2003, came about after almost 10 years of implementation of the previous version after a long-drawn-out process of studying several publications and a consultative process within and outside the higher education sector.

Three additional journal indices were included over and above the initial three. Further changes include the rule that at least 75% of articles published in a journal must emanate from multiple institutions. Overall, though, the effected changes to the policy were aimed at improving the quality of publications from the higher education system. Based on the evidence, the Policy and Procedures for Measurement of Research Output of Public Higher Education Institutions of 2003 had managed to increase the quantity of publications from the system. However, as part of the analysis of data and patterns, the DHET observed that the quality of some publications was questionable. Thus, the policy encourages all South African journals to aim for international standards in order to apply for inclusion in accredited international lists or indices. A number of studies suggest that predatory journals come about partly because of pressure to publish and to accrue maximum subsidy. As such, the policy reminds institutions and academics of the importance of research integrity, ethics, and the essence of knowledge dissemination rather than maximum benefits accompanying publications.

The DHET continues to explore various means of improving the quality of publications and to deal with the scourge of predatory journals. We would like universities to pay serious attention to improving the quality of publications using the known measures employed internationally such as peer review and the accepted norms of scholarship. If need be and as the Research Outputs Policy indicates, the DHET will even consider introducing penalties to non-complying institutions. The effort towards improvement of quality in our higher education system is everyone's responsibility.

Mr Mahlubi Mabizela and Ms Sindi Kayi

University Education Policy

Department of Higher Education and Training



SYNOPSIS OF FINDINGS

The process for reviewing a journal comprises a thorough evaluation of questionnaires completed by the respective Editors, three independent reviews of the journal by peers based on a defined subset of issues of the journal that have been published. The peer reviewers' reports are reviewed by the Panel and then synthesised into an appraisal of the journal and the provision of a number of recommendations. At the conclusion of the peer-review process, the Panel makes recommendations regarding recognition by DHET for inclusion in the South African List of journals and/or for the inclusion in SciELO SA by ASSAf.

The order of the titles below reflects the order as indicated in the Table of Contents.

Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
African Historical Review	DHET, IBSS and Scopus	Yes	No	The journal should enhance its profile by attracting more contributions from established scholars and from international scholars.
Historia: Journal of the Historical Association of South Africa	IBSS and SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The Editors should make a concerted effort to attract contributions from senior and international scholars, apart from consolidating the journal's online features to increase the appeal for a younger generation of scholars. The Panel believes that recruiting more black members for the Editorial Board could enhance the profile of the journal.
Journal for Contemporary History	DHET	Yes	No	The journal should enhance its profile by attracting more contributions from established scholars and from international scholars.
Journal of Natal and Zulu History		No	No	The Editors should consider transforming the identity of the journal by radically expanding its scope, and linking local histories to a broader trans-regional context. The Panel believes that the Editors should apply for re-accreditation once improvements have been made and it has successfully published two annual volumes.
Kronos: Southern African Histories	SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The Editors should consider a broader focus and scope of the journal to attract more contributions from senior and international scholars.
New Contree	DHET	No	No	<p>The journal should improve its national standing and its international visibility by attracting more international authors and more high-profile southern African authors.</p> <p>The Panel believes that the journal should re-define its focus and be more selective in accepting articles that convincingly engage with the core discipline of history.</p>



Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
South African Historical Journal	Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The Editors should solicit more articles in particular areas, such as on innovative research methodologies in historical investigations.
Yesterday and Today	SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The Editors should consider strategies to broaden the significant appeal of the journal for scholars in other African countries.
African Studies	IBSS, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The Editors should consider engaging reputable scholars regionally and internationally for contributions.
International Journal of African Renaissance Studies: Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity	IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The Editorial Board should be more diverse to include scholars from other African countries. The journal should consider featuring more contributions from across the continent and the African diaspora to do justice to its title.
Journal of African Elections	DHET	Yes	Yes	The journal does not necessarily do double-blind reviews and sometimes relies on only one reviewer. It is recommended that, as far as possible, the journal uses two reviewers.
South African Journal of International Affairs	IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The journal should encourage submissions with stronger theoretical components.
Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa	IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Yes	The Editorial Board should be broadened to enlist scholars from the southern African region and internationally. The Editors should also consider broadening the predominantly South African focus of the journal by inviting contributions from regional and international scholars. Furthermore, the distribution of the journal is rather limited and ways to increase its distribution should be considered.
Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology	SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The Editor should seriously reflect on the name of the journal to make it more focused.
Philosophical Papers	Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The journal should encourage young scholars from Africa to publish in the journal. The Editor has been in this position for 19 years. A succession plan should be put in place. The Editorial Advisory Board has no role to play in the journal. The journal should consider changing this and assigning more responsibilities to the Board.
Phronimon	SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The Editorial Board should be broadened to include scholars from other African universities. The journal should consider applying for inclusion on international indices.

Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
South African Journal of Philosophy	DHET, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The journal should take seriously the question of the diversity of its Editorial Board. The Panel believes that the journal should broaden its network of reviewers.
Politeia: South African Journal for Political Science and Public Administration	DHET	Yes	Yes	It would be prudent for the journal to display the Board openly and transparently on its website so that the academic audience can gauge the strength of the journal, as well as its international reputation and stature. A conflict-of-interest policy must be drawn up. The Editor has published in this journal, and it must be clear what mechanisms are in place to prevent a conflict-of-interest.
Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies	IBSS, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The journal should seek ways to increase readership in South Africa and Africa and should also consider soliciting more articles from scholars beyond South African universities.
Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory	IBSS, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The Editorial Board should consider the recommendation of putting a succession plan in place.
African Journal on Conflict Resolution	DHET	Yes	Yes	The journal should consider appointing an Editor-in-Chief of high standing to work alongside the Managing Editor and give the journal strategic disciplinary direction and impact. The Editorial Board should be expanded to include more female scholars. The Panel believes that the quality of the journal and the website can be improved. The impact and visibility of the journal should be improved by getting the journal indexed more widely
African Security Review	DHET and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA should it become open access.	The journal needs some measure of direction and coordination in terms of its editorial comments.
Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies	DHET	Yes	Yes	The journal managers should consider appointing an Editorial Advisory Board with members from African countries other than South Africa. Some articles should be contextualised to the international arena and debates.
Strategic Review for Southern Africa	IBSS	Yes	No	Abstracts should be provided for all articles on the landing webpage of the each journal article instead of readers only being able to access the abstract once the entire article is opened. This will give the readers a preview of the article.
South African Crime Quarterly	SciELO SA	Yes	Already on SciELO SA	The journal should seriously consider reducing issues to two or three. The name of the journal should perhaps be changed to indicate a focus on 'Criminal Justice'. Otherwise more rigour is recommended in conceptualising the focus of the journal. The Panel believes that the Editors should be wary of publishing more than one of their own articles in an issue that they are editing. An open, competitive appointment process of both the Editor and Editorial Board, together with a limited time appointment to the said positions are needed. Set criteria for research methodology and theory should be developed and implemented.



OVERALL SUMMARY

A frequently articulated recommendation is that Editorial Boards could make the appointment of Editors a competitive process to safeguard the quality and standing of the journal. Moreover, racial diversity and gender parity of Editorial Boards still constitute challenges for many South African journals. Reviewers often commented on the necessity to attract more contributions from a broader range of national and international institutions and scholars. Many reviewers also recommended that Editors should be encouraged in the interest of career development to accommodate quality papers from young and emerging scholars without compromising a healthy balance with contributions from senior scholars. Some of the reviews raised questions about the dangers of journals trying to occupy the same or similar scholarly space. The Panel also received recommendations on the need for reconstructing the identity of some journals whose scope and focus were viewed as poorly conceptualised or even outmoded. Many reviewers recommended the publication of special editions as an appropriate strategy for tightening the focus of journals as well as to attract more readers. Topics related to historical and current aspects of the environment were noted as being underrepresented in South African journals. Moreover, while reviewers acknowledged the logistical and structural challenges that journal Editors face, many of them commented on long turnaround times and delays in the publication of articles. Of the 25 journals evaluated, two were recommended for removal from the DHET list. One was 'conditionally' accepted for the DHET list. Four journals were invited to join SciELO SA. Six were not endorsed for inclusion in the SciELO SA platform. Nine journals were invited to participate provided that they implement an open access model. Six journals were already listed on the SciELO SA platform.



NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA
"A CELEBRATION OF HOPE"
2004

Unveiled by Ndileka Mandela on 31 March 2004

1. Periodic Peer Review of South African Scholarly Journals: Approved Process Guidelines and Criteria

1.1 Background

During the launch meeting of the ASSAf-led National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) held on 25 July 2007, the 112 participants supported ASSAf and its CSPiSA in taking the lead in the implementation of Recommendation 5 of the 2006 ASSAf report on *A Strategic Approach to Research Publishing in South Africa*. This recommendation dealt specifically with the need for a system of quality assurance for over 260 of the country's journals which are accredited by the DHET:

Recommendation No 5: that ASSAf be mandated jointly by the Departments of Education and Science and Technology to carry out external peer review and associated quality audit of all South African research journals in five-year cycles, probably best done in relation to groups of titles sharing a particular broad disciplinary focus, in order to make recommendations for improved functioning of each journal in the national and international system.

1.2 ASSAf Peer Review Panels

The quality assurance system for journals is conducted primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed peer review panels (PRPs) drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed ASSAf PRPs are overseen by the CSPiSA, but appointed by the Academy Council. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and input, before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and ultimate consideration sequentially by the CSPiSA and the ASSAf Council.

The following quote from the ASSAf report clarifies the approach to be followed in the review of the journals and some aspects of the approach proposed:

*The periodic, grouped **quality assurance-directed peer review of South African research periodicals** would function analogously to the quality audits of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC), would be developed as an outcome of the Editors' Forum, and would focus on: the quality of editorial and review process; fitness of, and for purpose; positioning in the global cycle of new and old journals listed and indexed in databases; financial sustainability; and scope and size issues. The **ASSAf panels** carrying out the reviews would each comprise 6–8 experts, some of whom would not be directly drawn from the areas concerned, and would require data-gathering, interviews, and international comparisons, before reports with recommendations are prepared, approved, and released to stakeholders such as national associations, the Departments of Science and Technology and of Education, the CHE/HEQC, the NRF and Higher Education South Africa (HESA now Universities South Africa (USAf)).*

It must be emphasised that the main purpose of the ASSAf review process for journals is to improve the quality of scholarly publication in the country in a manner that is consonant with traditional scholarly practices – primarily voluntary peer review. It is not an attempt to control these publications in any way. ASSAf respects the independence and freedom of researchers and of the research process itself as important preconditions for the critical and innovative production of new knowledge. At the same time, the work of South African researchers has to be assessed, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as part of the global community of scholars and scientists, and in this respect ASSAf has an obligation to contribute to the improvement of quality of such work where possible.

1.3 Initial Criteria

A number of criteria were explored in the part of the ASSAf report <http://research.assaf.org.za/handle/20.500.11911/49> (Chapter 4) that dealt with the survey of the over 200 then-current editors of accredited South African scholarly journals. Other possible criteria were proposed in other sections of the report or have since been suggested by members of the CSPiSA or the NSEF. These are grouped and listed below, and are consolidated in the questionnaire presented in Appendix A.

1.3.1 Editorial Process-related Criteria: Generally Based on the Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review Developed by ASSAf

- Longevity of the journal (continuous or discontinuous), in years.
- Number of original peer-reviewed papers published per year during the last five years, plus number of manuscripts submitted, plus number rejected out-of-hand or after peer review; average length of published papers; and 'author demography' of papers submitted and published.
- Number and nature of peer reviewers used per manuscript and the overall number per year, including institutional and national/international spread, plus quality (as per the *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* – previously the *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*) and average length of peer-review reports.
- Average delay before publication of submitted manuscripts and frequency of publication.
- Professional stature and experience of the editor; how the editor is selected; how long the editor has been in service; and the success or otherwise in addressing the major issues in the field, through commissioning of reviews/articles, editorial comment, etc.
- Number and professional stature/experience of editorial board members, plus selection processes, turnover, and nature of involvement in the handling of manuscripts or in other functions. If international members serve on the board (desirable), whether they are a mix from developed and developing countries.
- Existence and nature of editorial policy/guidelines, plus how often these are revised/updated; conflict-of-interest policy (e.g. how manuscripts are assessed when submitted by an editor or board member as author/co-author).
- Errata published – how many per year?
- Value-added features, such as editorials, news and views pieces, correspondence on papers, reviews, policy/topical fora, etc. – how many, and how are they generated? What proportion are they of the total pages in journal issues?
- Any peer-review process of the journal already in place (e.g. by professional association).

1.3.2 Business-Related Criteria

- Frequency and regularity ('on time') of publication.
- Print runs (redundant stock, direct versus indirect distribution to readers).
- Production model and service provider(s).
- Paid and unpaid advertising.
- Sponsorship and *quid pro quos*.
- Paid and unpaid subscription base and how this is marketed. Cost level of print and (if applicable) e-subscriptions.
- E-publication. If this is done, what are the website/portal and access possibilities for users? What evaluation is done, especially in respect of tagging and searchability?
- Whether there are HTML/XML and PDF versions, or only PDF, and whether multimedia is used.

- The portals for open access, if provided. If not e-published, whether this is being considered, and how.
- Total income and expenditure per annum.
- Distribution to international destinations.
- Indexed in Web of Science (WoS) and/or International Bibliography of Social Sciences (IBSS), or any other international database? If indexed, for how long and how continuously?
- Offers to purchase from multinational publishers.
- Copyright arrangements.

1.3.3 Bibliometric Assessments

- Citation practice – how many authors are listed?
- If applicable, what are the WoS-type impact factors (and various derivatives) over the last five years?
- Are reviews a regular/increasing feature?
- If articles are not in English, are English abstracts mandatory?

1.4 Process Guidelines for Setting up the Panels, Peer Reviewers, Panel Meetings and Reports for the Subject Peer Review of Journals

1.4.1 Background to ASSAf PRPs

The quality assurance system for journals is implemented primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed PRPs drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed ASSAf PRPs are overseen by the CSPiSA but appointed by the Academy Council. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and relevant input, before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and final consideration sequentially by the CSPiSA and the ASSAf Council.

1.4.2 Role of the Scholarly Publishing Unit

An ASSAf Project Officer of the Scholarly Publishing Unit of ASSAf is assigned to support each Panel Chair but reports to the Director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit in terms of review logistics and the production of draft and final review reports. The Project Officer is responsible for the following issues and activities:

- Selecting and appointing Panel Members;
- Obtaining completed questionnaires from Editors;
- Organising panel activities, including meetings, selecting independent peer reviewers for each journal or groups of titles;
- Drafting consolidated version 1 reports; and
- Obtaining CSPiSA and ASSAf Council approval for final, publishable panel reports.

1.4.3 Set-up of Panels

The proposed PRPs are chaired by an ASSAf member and appointed by the Council, which assumes accountability for the PRP's work in helping to develop a credible quality assurance mechanism for South African scholarly journals.

1.4.4 Selection of Panel Members

- The appointment process of PRP members is managed by the Chair of the CSPiSA until the Panel and its chair have been appointed.
- CSPiSA members are asked to assist in preparing a list of at least 12 or 13 names, of which 4 or 5 shall be considered to be alternates.
- A typical PRP consists of 6–8 members.
- Each name must be accompanied by critical personal and career details, as well as a brief motivation, to enable the CSPiSA, and later the ASSAf Council, to give due consideration to the constitution of the best possible, most competent PRP.
- The draft list of potential members is published on the ASSAf website and is also circulated for comment to members of the NSEF at least two weeks before the Council meeting at which the appointments are to be made.
- All comments received are noted in making the final decision.
- All provisionally listed persons are required to complete and submit conflict-of-interest forms prior to the Council's consideration of the list of names.

1.4.5 Criteria for Membership

- The individuals selected to serve on a PRP should have experience and credibility in the disciplines under review or in related disciplines or be senior scholars who may be from a completely different discipline. Generally, the composition of a panel, in an approximate ratio of 3:3:2, should be a mix of disciplinary specialists, specialists in areas cognate to the broad disciplinary area concerned, and senior scholars who are knowledgeable in scholarly practices and drawn from any broad disciplinary area.
- The panel members should have demonstrable expertise and experience in both the editing and peer-review aspects of research journals.
- It is not necessary that all PRP members be experts in both editing and peer-review aspects – a mix of senior academics and a few active editors (of journals not under review) is appropriate – but all should have some appreciation of both journal editing and peer review.
- At least one member should have direct practical (technical) experience of publishing.

Persons selected as panel participants will typically be drawn from ASSAf's membership, academic institutions, science councils and consultants.

1.4.6 Conflicts of Interest

- It will be necessary to take care to avoid real or perceived conflicts.
- Committee expertise, balance and conflicts of interest are discussed at the first meeting (and may again be discussed at any later meeting) of the PRPs, and recommendations to resolve problematic issues can be brought to the ASSAf Council through the Scholarly Publishing Unit (ASSAf Secretariat) for possible amendment of the composition of PRPs.
- Panel members are requested to submit written conflict-of-interest statements and are bound to report any new potential sources of conflicts of interest during the quality review process.

1.4.7 Organisation of the Panels

The organisation of the Panel is conducted by its chair and supported by the assigned Project Officer. The activities related to organisation typically include:

- Planning and costing the review and panel activities.
- Obtaining completed questionnaires from each Editor/equivalent (concerning publishing logistics).

- Identifying suitable peer reviewers for each journal or group of titles (concerning content quality).
- Assembling hard copies of journals or providing access to the journal online.
- Establishing panel meeting dates, assigning tasks, and collating materials.
- Preparing and distributing pre-meeting and post-meeting materials (draft version 1 reports, i.e. assembled peer reviews and Editors' questionnaires, in template form).
- Taking responsibility for post-meeting activities, including draft version 2 report preparation, circulation for comment to panellists and Editors, and preparation and processing of final reports.
- Evaluating panel processes.
- Selection of peer reviewers.
- At least two, but preferably three, independent peer reviewers, as well as alternative reviewers must be agreed upon by the Panel for each title or group of similar titles.
- Members of the CSPiSA and the ASSAf membership in general will be given an opportunity to volunteer through a specific written call.
- Other candidates will be sought from reviewer lists of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and from active science council research staff.
- The process of selection is overseen by the Panel Chair. The final agreed appointments of willing volunteer reviewers are made by the Panel itself.
- Conflicts of interest must be avoided – thus current or former Editors cannot become peer reviewers of the journals concerned; this also applies to current members of Editorial Boards.
- The Project Officer must arrange access to hard or e-copies of the journals under review for the peer reviewers.
- The core questions to be answered in each case must be provided to peer reviewers, who should be asked to ensure that these questions are all addressed in their reviews.

1.4.9 Panel Meetings and Procedures

1.4.9.1 Preparations

- The ASSAf Project Officer is responsible for drawing up the version 1 report on each journal. Each reviewer's answers should be consolidated under the standard headings of the draft, with each input as a separate paragraph. The Editor's questionnaire should also be inserted as a single item under 'questionnaire' and 'business aspects'.
- The documentation (Editor's questionnaires, peer-review reports) should be sent by email to all panellists at least two weeks prior to the panel meeting. If all the peer reviews are not available at this time, they should be made available by the date of the meeting, for tabling on the day.
- Panellists should be informed that hard copies of all documentation will be available at the meeting in bundles containing the completed Editor's questionnaire and reviewers' reports for each journal title.
- Conveners of sub-sets of journals should be alerted at this time to their role at the forthcoming panel meeting – to present the journals in the set, and to make recommendations for discussion and elaboration. If unable to attend, they should be asked to submit written notes for presentation to the Panel by the convener.
- Ideally, hard copies of issues of journals to be considered should be available at the meeting, but if logistically impossible, this can be dispensed with.
- A quorum of at least two-thirds of the members of PRPs must be guaranteed at any meeting, otherwise a new date must be sought.

1.4.9.2 Meetings

- Journal titles should be considered in sub-sets.
- Consensus on each of the criteria should be agreed *seriatim* as per a convener's spoken summary and noted by the Project Officer in attendance.
- Particular attention should be paid to reaching agreement on recommendations in respect of:
 - (a) An invitation to the publisher/editor to join the SciELO South Africa platform (if the journal is open access and meets the special criteria on frequency of publication and annual number of original peer-reviewed articles).
 - (b) A recommendation to the DHET on accreditation in its list of South African journals in which any article is considered as a valid research output.
 - (c) Suggestions for improvement that would make it possible to make an invitation and/or recommendation under (a) or (b) if not yet recommended.
 - (d) Suggestions for improvement or enhanced functions in general.

1.4.10 Post-meeting Procedures and Panel Reports

- When producing a version 2 report, the three paragraphs in each item must be consolidated to produce a consensus version.
- A detailed and motivated draft version 2 report of each peer review panel's findings and recommendations is prepared by the assigned Project Officer, working closely with the Panel Chair
- The Project Officer and convener should reach agreement on the record of the meeting in respect of all outcomes within no more than two weeks.
- The meeting record should be sent for comment and ratification to all panellists (including those who were not able to attend the meeting) and replies should be received within one week.
- The convener should prepare a final version of the meeting record and submit a copy of each journal-specific item as a privileged communication to the Editor concerned for written comment within no more than two weeks.
- The convener should identify any Editor's comment that might materially change the recommendations in the record and submit these to the Panel for consideration and decision.
- The finally agreed-upon record should be submitted to the CSPiSA for approval before its submission to the ASSAf Council and public release.

2. Special Considerations Concerning South African History, Philosophy and Politics Journals

The ASSAf PRP for History, Philosophy and Politics evaluated 25 journals in the sub-groups History, Philosophy, Politics, Security and Policing, International Studies, and Multidisciplinary journals. The Panel consisted of eight scholars from different disciplines in the humanities. The Panel received and evaluated 84 reviews from 65 national and international experts in the relevant fields. The period under review extended from 2015 to 2017 with some information updated for 2018. In assessing the reviewers' comments for the completion of the final consensus reviews, panel members were sensitive to the many structural and managerial challenges that journal Editors face.

Note: Panel members who are directly involved with any journal under review did not contribute to the reporting or the recommendations for that particular journal.

Many Editors provided feedback to the final consensus reviews and also welcomed constructive criticism they received. In some cases, critical issues had already been anticipated, and the Editors responded by assuring that measures had already been taken to work on both strengths and weaknesses.

The ASSAf peer review of journals has been motivated by a commitment to assess scholarly standards at a time when academic publishing has to face numerous issues, ranging from the challenge of maintaining intellectual integrity and commercial viability in the age of open access and predatory journals. In addition, attention has to be paid to constantly evolving coordinates in deciding what constitutes academic relevance in a changing world. According to the NRF-commissioned study by CREST, despite some encouraging signs of a resilient research and publishing culture in the humanities in South Africa, there are many challenges, such as a negative growth in research capacity in the human sciences which is accompanied by a below-average growth rate of academics who complete PhDs.¹ Thus, there is a need for constant attention to changing priorities and agendas in the humanities and for the relentless critical evaluation of scope, focus and methodologies. Digitisation and the concomitant transformation of the dissemination of knowledge have not only led to challenges of traditional systems of print subscriptions and paywalls, with universities cutting down on journal subscriptions, but these trends have also opened up important questions about the content and relevance of academic work beyond its marketability.

Panel decisions

Of the journals evaluated (25), two were recommended for removal from the DHET list and one was 'conditionally' accepted for the DHET list. Four journals were invited to join SciELO SA, and six were not endorsed for inclusion in the SciELO SA platform. Nine journals were invited to participate provided that they implement an open access model, and six journals were already listed on the SciELO SA platform.

Reviewer's feedback

As stipulated by the ASSAf journal review guidelines, the reviewers were asked to comment on the configuration of Editorial Boards and the reputation of their members in the academic community. In most cases, the expertise of the Editors was explicitly acknowledged. However, a frequently articulated concern is that Editorial Boards could benefit from making the appointment of Editors a competitive process to safeguard the quality and standing of the journal. Moreover, many Editorial

¹ Johann Mouton with Isabel Basson et al., *The State of the South African Research Enterprise* (DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Scientometrics and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy: Stellenbosch, 2019), pp.6-7.

Boards are still grappling with the problem of a lack of diversity, not only in racial terms but sometimes also in relation to gender parity. Thus, the creation of genuine representativity is still a challenge that many South African journals experience.

Apart from the question of the structure of Editorial Boards, reviewers often commented on the necessity of making greater efforts to attract contributions from a broader range of institutions to avoid being branded as in-house journals that rely on a narrow pool of contributors from a limited range of universities. Referring to the importance of being competitive internationally without merely imitating foreign trends, another frequently made observation emerging from the reviews is that more contributions from international scholars could be proactively pursued. Even journals that may have been conceptualised with a tighter focus on South African topics will benefit from expanding their scope to explore similar and related topics, especially in a wider continental context. Many reviewers also commented that Editors should be encouraged in the interest of career development to accommodate quality papers from young and emerging scholars without compromising a healthy balance with contributions from senior scholars. Some of the reviews raised questions about the dangers of journals trying to occupy the same or similar scholarly space and recommended considering the amalgamation of journals.

In some cases, the Panel also received recommendations on the need for fine-tuning or even reconstructing the identity of journals whose scope and focus were viewed as blurred or even outmoded. The Panel also noted a frequently made recommendation to consider the publication of special editions as an appropriate strategy for tightening the focus of journals as well as to attract more readers. In this context, topics related to historical and current aspects of the environment were noted as being underrepresented in South African journals. Moreover, while reviewers were appreciative of the logistical and structural challenges that journal Editors face, many of them commented on long turnaround times and delays in the publication of articles.

Generally speaking, the Panel experienced the review as a constructive and productive process. It is the nature of such evaluations that some critical questions will be raised that will not always be met with agreement from Editors. It is the view of the Panel, however, that the reviews were conducted in the spirit of academic collegiality to support journal Editors in meeting the challenges posed by a changing publishing environment.

3. Panel Members

- i. Dr Tania Coetzee, Programme Director of Governance and Political Transformation and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4935-7305>
- ii. Prof Tilman Dederig, Emeritus Professor, Department of History, University of South Africa; Research Associate, University of Pretoria <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5601-5891>
- iii. Prof Christopher Isike, Professor, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5528-8078>
- iv. Prof Pascah Mungwini, Professor of Philosophy, University of South Africa <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8354-1299>
- v. Prof Yolanda Sadie, Emeritus Professor of Politics, University of Johannesburg.
- vi. Prof Brigitte Smit, Former Research Professor University of South Africa; Independent Academic and Research Consultant <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0145-9652>
- vii. Prof Elizabeth van Heyningen, Honorary Research Associate, Stellenbosch University.
- viii. Prof Anné Verhoef, Director of the School of Philosophy, North-West University <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9627-1969>

Director, Scholarly Publishing Unit: Mrs Susan Veldsman

Project Officer, Scholarly Publishing Unit: Ms Mmaphuthi Mashiachidi



4. Consensus Reviews of Journals in the Group

4.1 History

4.1.1 African Historical Review

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Historical Review* (formerly *Kleio: A Journal of Historical Studies from Africa*) is a peer-reviewed journal with a long and distinguished history. Originally conceived as a research and teaching forum for histories taught in the Department of History at the University of South Africa (Unisa) and to promote the work of students and staff, the journal is now an international publication for high-quality articles on a wide variety of historical subjects.

The mission of the journal is to be transdisciplinary, responsive to theoretical developments in research relating to the continent of Africa and within fields closely linked to historical and heritage studies. The journal welcomes contributions from both established and younger scholars on themes from or in Africa and encourages innovative writing and research on a variety of topics and with an array of theoretical frameworks.

The journal provides South African, continental, and international research communities with an excellent opportunity to showcase and publish original historical research to a wider range of print and online readers drawn from various disciplines within the social sciences and humanities.

The journal is available to approximately 350 institutions and libraries in South Africa and the rest of Africa. In addition, *African Historical Review* is also available to 2 085 institutions and libraries as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals. These figures also include access via EBSCOhost and development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal has a respected Editorial Board, but the appointment of additional Board members with a more visible national and international reputations would enhance the profile of the journal.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *African Historical Review* was established in 1969 and two issues are published per year. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform www.tandfonline.com/rahr. The journal received 39 619 page views and 5 501 full-text downloads in 2017 and is read in 115 countries, of which 32 are African countries. Issues are prescheduled to appear in June and November. There have been no recorded interruptions to publication.

A total of 27 peer-reviewed full articles, one letter, three review articles, 45 book reviews, and two conference papers were published over the three-year review period. The number of manuscripts received over the three-year review period was 43. On average, the rejection rate after peer review was 40% over the three years. Approximately two authors per issue have non-South African addresses.

Two reviewers from different institutions are approached to evaluate each article. The reviewers are selected based on their expertise and the specific field of focus of the article. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way' and all research articles published have undergone rigorous peer review, involving initial screening by the Editor and anonymised review by at least two reviewers. The Editor

ensures that there is a rigorous implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement as the author(s) must address the concerns raised by the reviewers. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information as revised articles are peer reviewed by the same reviewers, should they wish to see the content of the revised article. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. Sixteen reviewers were used in 2013 and 80% of these reviewers were non-South African scholars and were based at universities abroad. Peer-review reports are accessibly retained. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is at least eight to ten months and online is six to eight months. The articles appear first online and then in print.

The Editor assumed leadership of the journal in 2007. The Editor succeeded the former Editor as he was the joint Editor. The period of appointment was not stipulated when the Editor was appointed. Members of the Editorial Board were appointed in 2007, and an Editorial Advisory Board was appointed in 2017. The Editorial Board members are involved as reviewers based on their expertise and they also advise and give input on editorial policies. Scholars from South Africa, Botswana, and Zambia serve on the Editorial Advisory Board. The Editorial Board members are approached individually based on their expertise and research record. There is no set period for appointment of Board members. They are appointed until individual members resign. The Board comprises national and international experts and members provide topical expertise.

Editorial guidelines are available online: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rahr20&page=instructions>. The journal's publisher, Taylor & Francis (Routledge), is a member of COPE, and the *African Historical Review* abides by the COPE guidelines on publication ethics: <http://publicationethics.org/about>. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* as applied by Unisa Press. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines here: <http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/publication/corrections.asp>.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials and analytical book reviews. Approximately 84% of the pages in each issue represents peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The expertise of the Board members could be used to broaden the reach and focus of the journal. The Editors should extend the national reach of the journal by liaising particularly with university departments outside Gauteng. The production of at least one special themed edition per annum, published with guest Editors, is highly recommended.

The Editors should increase the number of published papers to attract not only a wider range of younger scholars from various parts of Africa but also to attract reputed international scholars. The Editors should also broaden the focus of articles as well as book reviews on South and Southern Africa and include more publications on other regions of the continent, especially in reference to the title of the journal.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The presentation of the journal is up to technical standards with a good citation practice as well as in terms of design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: In line with the comments made on content, the reviewers appreciate the efforts made by the Editors to encourage submissions from emerging scholars, but it is recommended that

more contributions from established scholars, especially from authors with an international reputation, be encouraged.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

Unisa Press owns and co-publishes the journal with Taylor & Francis (Routledge). The Taylor & Francis international print run per issue is 60 copies, and the Unisa Press South African print run is 105 per issue. The journal does not carry advertising and it does not receive financial sponsorship.

The *African Historical Review* is available to readers in both print and online and through various subsidiaries. Page charges are levied on South African based authors where these are paid by their institutions. No publishable article is refused on the basis of page charge requirements. Open Journal Systems (OJS) is used to manage the journal. The journal is accessible online with password protection and it is also part of a commercial e-publication service.

The publisher is multinational but has a South African based office and has not offered to purchase the journal. In terms of the licensing agreement with authors, copyright is vested with Unisa Press. However, the authors retain the right to use their own article (provided they acknowledge the published original in standard bibliographic citation form).

The *African Historical Review* is indexed by African Studies Abstracts Online, America: History and Life, Article First, Bibliographies, Current Abstracts, Dietrich's Index Philosophicus, Electronic Collections Online, Historical Abstracts Online, Index to South African Periodicals, International Bibliography of Book Reviews of Scholarly Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences, IBSS, Periodicals Index Online, PubMed, Russian Academy of Sciences, Scopus, and TOC Premier. On Scopus, the SNIP for 2016 was 0.522 and the SJR for 2016 was 0.124. The journal had a CiteScore of 0.15, with a CiteScore ranking of 449/912. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis.

The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. The journal has been independently reviewed by the DHET and by Scopus.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editorial Board should develop a truly national reach beyond the current focus on Gauteng university departments.

The Editors should strive for more regular publication. A more sustained effort could be made to keep up with their publishing schedule.

The publication of themed issues is highly recommended.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the journal enhances its profile by attracting more contributions from established scholars and from international scholars.
 - iv. In addition, the Panel believes that the reputation and reach of the journal could benefit from the publication of themed editions.
-

4.1.2 Historia: Journal of the Historical Association of South Africa

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Historia publishes articles on aspects of the history of southern Africa, as well as significant historiographical issues. The journal's primary focus is historical research, but it welcomes contributions from scholars in other disciplines who are interested in grappling with the past or the meaning of change in their areas of expertise.

Historia is one of only a handful of local history journals and is committed to disseminating quality historical research. The primary target audiences are local and international historians (and academics from other disciplines) who are engaged in historical research related to southern Africa. While the majority of subscribers and contributors are South African, this is not the journal's explicit focus.

The journal has a reach of 203 subscribers. Of these, 137 are local subscribers, 34 are international and 32 are organisations.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal is undergoing a period of transition with a new Editorial Team that is in the process of making changes. There is a good mix of senior and junior scholars, as well as a range of areas of subject specialty, but in the interest of diversity, it is recommended that more black scholars be recruited to the Board.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Historia was established in 1956 and publishes issues biannually. It is available online through the SciELO SA platform http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_issues&pid=0018-229X&lng=en&nrm=iso. The online version is also available on the website of the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA): <http://www.hgsa.co.za/historia-archive> and on the Sabinet platform: <http://journals.sabinet.co.za/hist>.

The visit and download records and number of countries the journal is read were unknown at the time of the review. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in May/June and November/December, but not on particular dates. There have not been any significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 42 full articles were published, as well as five review articles and 66 book reviews. A total number of 37 full articles, five review articles, 68 book reviews, and one digital humanities review were received. About 26 manuscripts were rejected without peer review and five were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 36%.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. In the case of divergent reports, a third reviewer is approached. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise in relation to the submitted article. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers sometimes receive follow-up information when they ask to be informed or when the changes expected were contentious or extensive. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database, but plans to do so are underway.

In 2017, 24 peer reviewers were used, of which one third had an address outside South Africa. Peer review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication is nine months to one year. The print and online versions are published on the same day.

At the time of the review, the Editor-in-Chief had been in office since the beginning of 2017 and was approached by HASA after having served as a Review Editor from 2014. There was no fixed period of appointment. Assistant Editors were appointed in 2015. The new Editor was appointed in June 2019 and works with one Assistant Editor. A new Advisory Board was appointed in 2016. The previous Board was in place for four years and six months, but renewals took place after three years. The Advisory Board is not appointed competitively. Members of HASA are identified, as well as local and international academics covering a spectrum of historical fields and historiographical traditions. They are then invited to become Board members. The period of appointment is about three years. Board members handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

There are editorial guidelines available online. There is no conflict-of-interest policy, but the journal under the previous Editor adopted a policy that prevents the Editors from publishing in the journal, and, where possible, submissions from home institutions are not dealt with by an Editor from the same institution. The journal also ensures that peer reviewers are not recruited from the same institution as that of the author submitting the manuscript. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is an errata policy, but in all the time of the previous editorship, no errata were published.

The journal publishes value-added features such as 'news and views', critical topical reviews, and analytical book reviews. The percentage of total pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material fluctuates, but from 2015 to 2017, it was an average of 150 to 250 pages.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles are generally of good quality, but the journal does not necessarily attract work by leading senior scholars within the broad field of South African history, and in its present form it is unlikely to attract international contributions. While it is appreciated that the journal features as a significant platform for contributions from postgraduate students, it is recommended that the number of submissions from emerging scholars be limited in order to attract more contributions from senior and international scholars.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Good professional standards are maintained across the board.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal appears to be a major vehicle for publishing postgraduate research. The Editors may want to consider consolidating this aspect by strengthening some online features, such as discussion forums. At the same time, it is recommended that the Editors seek a balance between offering an outlet for advanced postgraduate work and elevating the journal to a level at which it attracts more high-quality articles submitted by senior and international scholars.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

HASA is both the owner and the publisher of the journal. The regular print run is 300 copies per edition. The journal is printed by V+R Printers, while HASA handles its distribution in-house. The journal does not carry paid advertising, although HASA advertises its biannual conferences in *Historia*. HASA does not receive any sponsorships.

The number of paying subscribers is 190 out of 203, of which 32 are organisations as opposed to individuals. HASA does impose page fees and the rates for 2017 were R150 per page of the author's published article. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system. Published articles are accessible online via the SciELO SA platform.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright remains with the authors. There is currently no licensing agreement with authors but the process of adopting a Creative Commons licence agreement is underway with the aid of ASSAf.

The journal is included in the African Journal Archive, DHET, Historical Abstracts, IBSS, IBZ, Sabinet African Journals, SciELO Citation Index, Social Sciences and Humanities Collection, and Web of Knowledge (Clarivate Analytics).

The journal has no impact factor and altmetric indicators have not been determined. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: Apart from the comments above, the Editors may want to consider the suggestion to conceptualise themed special editions to enhance the profile of the journal.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the Editors should make a concerted effort to attract contributions from senior and international scholars, apart from consolidating the journal's online features to increase the appeal for a younger generation of scholars.
 - iv. In addition, the Panel believes that recruiting more black members for the Editorial Board could enhance the profile of the journal.
-

4.1.3 Journal for Contemporary History - journal title since 2019 is *Southern Journal of Contemporary History*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal for Contemporary History/Joernaal vir Eietydse Geskiedenis (JCH/JEG)* is a peer-reviewed journal which comprises academically outstanding articles of a contemporary historical or political nature in both English and Afrikaans. Only articles dealing with topics on sub-Saharan Africa and in particular South Africa since 1945 are considered. Review articles and book reviews are also considered for publication. Sometimes several related articles are published in a special edition which may also include articles on topics before 1945. The main themes fall within the fields of contemporary history and political science, but an interdisciplinary approach to these themes is also accepted. Contemporary topics are discussed, and new perspectives debated.

Since December 2017, the journal has been part of the OJS platform of the University of the Free State and articles are freely available online. However, institutions like Stanford University and the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden, as well as higher education and other research institutions in South Africa indicated that they should be retained on the subscription list for hard copies of the journal. Due to the fact that the journal is freely available online, at the moment there are only 40 subscribers of whom 11 (27.5%) are individuals, mostly from academic institutions, such as the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and Unisa. The 14 (35%) international institutional subscribers include those from the USA (24.1%), the Netherlands (13.8%), the UK (3.44%), Sweden (3.4%) and Switzerland (3.4%). The institutional subscribers from Africa (10%) are from Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho. Members of the Editorial Board, the senior management of the University of the Free State, the Deans of the University of the Free State, as well as the Library of the University of the Free State and former Head of Departments of the Department of History receive free copies of the journal. Editorial Board members are from South Africa (64%), Australia (7.1%), the USA (7.1%), the Netherlands (7.1%), Japan (3.6%), Russia (3.6%), Austria (3.6%), and Lesotho (3.1%). Free copies are also sent to the Legal Deposit Libraries and each author receives a free copy. In addition to the University of the Free State, authors in 2017 included academics from the University of Zululand, University of Limpopo, Stellenbosch University, NWU, Unisa, University of Cape Town, Sol Plaatje University, University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and University of Venda.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The reviewers acknowledge that the journal is a platform for some interesting and relevant work. At the same time, there is an impression that the close ties of the Editors with the University of the Free State have given the journal the image of an in-house publication. Thus, it is recommended that the Editorial Board be expanded.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 1975 and at least two issues are published per annum. Sometimes related articles are published in a special edition, which may be a third edition. The journal is available online: <http://apps.ufs.ac.za/kovsiejournals/>. Visit and download records were not available at the time of the review. The journal is read in approximately 20 countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in June and December and there have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 73 full articles, two review articles and eight book reviews were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same period was 107; eight manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 12 were rejected after peer review. Two peer-reviewed manuscripts had at least one author with a non-South African address.

After the editorial committee has approved that a submission is within the scope of the journal, two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. If both reviewers approve of publication, the article is accepted. If both reviewers disapprove of publication, then the article is turned down. In the case of an equal vote, the manuscript is referred to a third reviewer whose decision is final. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way' not only when sending manuscripts to reviewers, but also when review reports are forwarded to the authors. Articles that have been accepted are returned to the authors with the anonymous assessment reports (including those that might have recommended rejection) and it is stated that the article will only be published on condition that the reviewers' comments are addressed in the final manuscript. The authors may disagree with the comments, provided they can substantiate their arguments, and in such cases the Editor's decision is final. Each author must submit a short report on the alterations made to the final manuscript and this is checked against the review reports by the manuscript Editors. Most authors (98%) adhere to the comments of reviewers.

Reviewers are acknowledged in the back of each edition, including those of articles that were rejected. There is a database of reviewers and their fields of interest. Reviewer performance is discussed during editorial meetings. In 2017, there were 64 peer reviewers. The number of these reviewers who had non-South African addresses was five. The peer review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is no longer than six months, but it depends on the quality of the article and the availability of reviewers. Some may go through the system in six weeks, but then still have to wait until the final manuscript is forwarded to the printers. When acknowledging receipt of the final revised manuscript, authors are informed of the issue in which the manuscript will be published.

The Editor has been in office for three years. The position was advertised in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of the Free State and the Editor was appointed by the advisory editorial committee after reaching consensus. The minimum academic rank for an Editor is ideally that of associate professor and the Editor must be a permanent staff member of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of the Free State. The Editor must have a good research record and must preferably be an NRF-accredited researcher. The term of office for the Editor is four years and may be renewed.

The Advisory and Contributing Editors handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Contributing editors have been appointed for a period of four years and their appointment period may be renewed. New appointments of members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board were made in December 2017 for a period of four years which will expire in December 2021. The Advisory Editors are appointed by the advisory editorial committee after reaching consensus. The minimum academic rank for an Advisory Editor is preferably that of a senior lecturer and they must be a staff member of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of the Free State. Advisory Editors must have a good research record and their names are suggested by members of the advisory editorial committee. Contributing Editors are appointed by the advisory editorial committee after reaching consensus. Contributing Editors are generally appointed from the ranks of professors, emeritus professors and extraordinary professors based at institutions outside the University of the Free State, but they may also be emeritus professors at the University of the Free State. Contributing Editors must have a good research record and preferably be established researchers. Approximately half of the Contributing Editors must be international academics of stature. Contributing Editors must collectively represent a diversity of expertise in the field of historical and political studies.

The journal's editorial guidelines are those of the University of the Free State's OJS platform, accommodating slight differences between the *JCH/JEG* and other Kopsie journals. The journal abides by the University of the Free State's Publishing Policy Document and an Advisory Editor does not participate in the appointment of reviewers when submitting a manuscript for possible publication. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Articles are forwarded to authors before publication and they have an opportunity to correct mistakes. If returned, they assume responsibility for any mistakes in the article.

Value-added features such as critical editorials and analytical book reviews are published in the journal. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material in 2018 was 96.19%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: Although the journal has published contributions from some leading national scholars, the general quality of articles has been described as mixed. This may be partly the result of the hybrid nature of the journal, straddling the fields of History and Political Sciences. Thus, not all the articles have the kind of historical depth that historians are usually looking for. More effort should be made to attract international contributions. Special editions are also recommended to enhance the profile of the journal.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The presentation of the journal is generally up to technical standards, but it is recommended that language editors be assigned by the journal to ensure quality standards of the English language articles.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal reflects suitability as a stimulus for local graduate students and emerging scholars. Comments have been directed, however, at the vaguely defined focus and purpose of the journal which constitutes an obstacle to wider recognition, especially at an international level. It has been suggested that strengthening the identity of the journal as a more clearly defined platform for historical research will enhance the national and international profile of the journal.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The title owner and publisher of the journal is the Faculty of Humanities at the University of the Free State. The regular print run is 150 copies per issue. Production and distribution are outsourced to SUN Media. There is no advertising in the journal.

The number of paying subscribers is 40 – 29 institutions and 11 individuals. The journal charges APCs of R120 per page. The journal uploads articles onto the web and uses a manual system for the management of the editorial workflow. The journal is freely accessible online and is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (Sabinet). There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright resides with the authors.

The journal is accredited by DHET. Impact factors and altmetric indicators have not been determined. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently reviewed before.

[Note: Since the review was completed, the journal title changed to *Southern Journal for Contemporary History* in January 2019 and published its first issue in December 2019. A new Editorial Board was appointed and it is made up of the Editor-in-Chief Neil Roos (University of the Free State), Associate Editors Tinashe Nyamunda (North West University) and Suraj Yengde (Harvard Kennedy School) and Managing Editor Joyline Kufandirori (University of the Free State). The Editors of the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History* (<http://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/jch>) note the ASSAf consensus report on the *Journal for Contemporary History*. The *Southern Journal for Contemporary History* is based at the University of the Free State, retains the ISSN number from the *Journal for Contemporary History* and continued with its volume sequence. The Editors could not comment on this ASSAf report.]

Suggested improvements:

Consensus Review: Apart from the suggestions made above, the Editors may want to consider limiting the number of publications from the same authors in order to avoid the impression of an in-house journal.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the journal should enhance its profile by attracting more contributions from established scholars and from international scholars.
 - iv. In addition, the Panel believes that the profile of the journal as a history journal should be defined more carefully.
-

4.1.4 Journal of Natal and Zulu History

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* (JNZH) publishes original articles and book reviews that are focused on political, social, economic and cultural change in the south-eastern coastal region of Africa from pre-colonial times to the present. Themes range widely but address the unique features of this geographical and social terrain as a site of encounter, settlement and mobility, as well as its influences further afield. The journal welcomes contributions that investigate politics, production and private life, migration, and identity, religion and culture, gender and sexuality, labour and class, institutions and biography, as well contributions on land, law, love, and violence. The journal also welcomes new interpretations of history and the use of new sources, theories and methodologies that generate new knowledge and provoke fresh assessments of established perspectives.

The journal is specific to the disciplines of history, heritage studies, memory studies and cognate fields, with the understanding that contributing researchers employ theories, research design and interpretative methods that often cross humanities and social science disciplines.

The primary target audience is scholarly, but the journal has also been available and of utility to amateur historians, lay readers and policymakers. Initially, from its founding in 1978, the JNZH historically was a small but important outlet for research that challenged the normative historiography of the region now called KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), which had largely been written through the ideological lens of British imperial settlement and military conquest. It has therefore been modestly instrumental as a platform showcasing the emergence of politically relevant research, debate, and teaching. It offered some key research on themes pertaining to pre-colonial social life and its transformations in South Africa, previously unexplored aspects of colonial conquest and encounters, and social organisations of gender, labour and land, medicine and family, migration and diaspora and the like.

It thus contributed to a growing interest in the past of KwaZulu-Natal that, since 1994, has become a magnet for historical inquiry – local and international. A new generation of young historians from the USA, UK, India and around Africa, in addition to those at South African national universities, are producing new accounts, interpretations and investigations of history and heritage. Additionally, a paradigmatic 'global turn' has seen new attention paid to Indian Ocean studies, diaspora studies, African American and pan-Africanist studies, empire studies, and the like. These fields have recognised the importance of this south-eastern region of Africa and its multicultural, multilingual social make-up as a site for vibrant research. Importantly, the new interest in global politics of Islam makes this journal important for studies of Muslims in Africa, due to a concentration of Muslim South Africans in the KZN province. Thus, its audiences have been varied and broad.

The *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* is anticipated to be available to over 2 300 institutions and libraries worldwide as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals in 2018. These figures also include access via EBSCOhost and development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus Review: The journal has been inoperative for a long period, but a new Editorial Team has been established to revive the journal. The Editorial Board reflects an adequate combination of local and international scholars.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* was established in 1978 and is published annually. The journal is accessible online through the Taylor & Francis platform: <http://www.tandfonline.com/rnzh>. Visit and download records are currently low as the journal has just relaunched as a Taylor & Francis publication after a hiatus of several years, due to institutional problems in its former production site.

The journal had a global readership, previously with regular internet hits from six continents. The expectation from 2018 is that it will resume and grow this readership through the numerous institutions that will gain access to it as part of the Social Sciences and Humanities library packages. Until 2018, the journal had a regular readership of between five to seven Anglophone African countries. Under Taylor & Francis, this readership may be expected to increase exponentially.

With the exception of the three-year review period, the journal has been regularly produced on scheduled dates. There have been significant interruptions and it is very important to state that, after 2013, no new issues of the journal were published, either online or in hard copy format. Through the initiatives of staff in the Department of History at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, an OJS web platform was created. The journal archives were digitised, and the journal was run on a server that was maintained independently and through the private funds and voluntary efforts of departmental staff. These measures were to ensure the survivability of the journal in the face of budget cuts and two sets of internal restructuring at the University of KwaZulu-Natal after 2008. Unfortunately, with increasing restructurings and further losses of administrative support and postgraduate funding, massive and sequential restructuring, and workload rationalisations that introduced productivity 'models' quantifying academic tasks (but, crucially, did not acknowledge or reward journal editing), overloaded staff resources of time and energies and new management styles, the department saw a mass resignation of the staff that had previously run the journal. Two members of staff had departed by 2011, and an additional five staff members resigned and sought other employment opportunities between the beginning of 2014 and mid-2015. During this latter period, one emeritus professor, Jeff Guy, passed away. Within a climate of institutional challenges, the journal floundered and ceased production from 2014. Recently, however, one Editor who is the previous Editor (Prof Waetjen) and the previous contributor (Prof Sheik), in addition to international and national scholars (located at different universities) have – from 2016 to the present – proceeded through a series of formal steps to secure the journal's future and accreditation. The journal is now officially a journal under the governance of the Southern African Historical Society, and a publication of Taylor & Francis Africa (Routledge), edited by historians at the University of Johannesburg and with an Advisory Board of national and international regional historians.

Between 2014 and 2016 there were no journal issues. In the past, the journal published between four and eight original research articles and between two and six book reviews. Occasionally there have been review essays and debate forums between contesting scholars. Between 2011 and 2013, 26 research articles, five book reviews, one annotated bibliography and one poem were published. Two special issues appeared in 2013, amounting to four individual issues of the journal in 2013. For the 2018 issue, the journal received nine manuscripts. Between 2011 and 2013, the journal received 32 manuscripts for four issues. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was seven, with five rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was eight of 26, or 30%, between 2011 and 2013. For the upcoming

issue, this figure stands at 50%. The book forum for 2018 consists of four non-South African authors and two South Africans.

Three to four peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript, with an understanding that one or more may decline the request. The Editors and Advisory Board members approach, via email, local and overseas scholars whose work is focused on the pertinent topic to serve as peer reviewers. All are affiliated with accredited universities. The review process has always been a double-blind process, such that neither the author nor reviewer is ever indicated. The journal has traditionally been edited and reviewed with a very high standard of rigour. In some cases, the Editor demands more than one revision phase. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information and will be given the outcome of each paper they review and, subject to individual permissions, they can also receive the article's other review/s. Reviewer performance is assessed and information is captured in a database. Each reviewer is scored after they submit a review to indicate both the timeliness and the quality of a review. There is also space for 'other comments' – for instance to note whether a reviewer is overly personal in critiquing or if they are particularly biased against a specific theoretical field.

For the 2018 issue, there were ten reviewers in total. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was 30%. Editors currently retain all reports in their work records. However, this will be part of the Taylor & Francis editorial manager submissions and peer review management software system going forward. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print was 18 to 22 months in the past but will be reduced to 12 months or less from 2018 under Taylor & Francis management. Online was 18 months but will be reduced to 8–12 months from 2018 under Taylor & Francis management.

The Editors have been in office for one year since the journal's relaunch. The previous Editor was in office from 2006 to 2009. The two current Editors self-selected themselves to navigate steps for a new journal platform and rescue the journal from perishing. They will be in office for four to five years.

Usually members of the Editorial Advisory Board do not handle peer reviews, but they provide advice on editorial policies and practices. However, they may be asked to be reviewers and to recommend reviewers. The previous Advisory Board served for a decade. The current Board will serve an initial five-year term. The Board were targeted for their representation of expertise in various thematic aspects of knowledge and methodologies pertinent to this journal. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has a detailed Instructions for Authors page online which gives information on the journal's editorial policy and guidelines and is available here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rnzh20&page=instructions#.ViTYC34rLIU>. Furthermore, Taylor & Francis (Routledge) is a member of COPE. All of the Routledge, Taylor & Francis journals, including Journal of Natal and Zulu History abide by the COPE guidelines on publication ethics: <http://publicationethics.org/about>.

The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. In the past, the journal published a notice of correction in the subsequent issue of the journal, but as of 2018, it is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines here: <http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/publication/corrections.asp>.

The journal publishes editorials and will be publishing special issues, each with an edited introduction. Every issue will feature a book forum, rather than individual book reviews. This will help distinguish the journal and not draw away expertise from the *South African Historical Journal*. Visual materials will be published when applicable to a special issue. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 80–90% on all scholarly articles.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus Review: The journal has not yet produced a sufficient output that would allow a comprehensive assessment of its overall quality. The narrow regional focus of the journal should be explicated and contextualised by a substantial editorial intervention.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus Review: Professional standards are maintained.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus Review: The journal shows potential in becoming a relevant platform for local postgraduate students and emerging scholars.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The title is now under the custodianship of the Southern African Historical Society with Taylor & Francis as its publisher. A regular print run will be determined by the number of print copy subscriptions, which will be finalised in 2018. Otherwise, Taylor & Francis usually prints enough copies for marketing stock and legal deposits and archives in South Africa and around the world. Production and distribution are not outsourced and there is no advertising in the journal. The journal does not receive any financial support. The title will be sold as a package together with the *South African Historical Journal*, as well as singularly.

No article-processing or page fees are charged. The journal uses an online journal management system to manage the editorial workflow. The system is currently under construction and will be available by July 2018. Currently, authors submit to the Editors via email, with correspondence to selected reviewers also by email. Documents are currently stored in Editors' work files on their computers at the University of Johannesburg. The journal is not open access and is held behind a paywall. Individuals and institutions need to take out a subscription to be able to access the journal's content. However, through the Taylor & Francis Open Select/Hybrid model, authors can choose to publish in a subscription journal and pay an article processing charge (APC) to make their article freely available online upon publication via our Open Select programme. The journal offers a discounted Open Select rate for African authors, and waivers and discounts are available for certain African and developing countries. The journal is part of a commercial e-publication service.

The journal's publisher is multinational with a South African based office and worked on resuscitating and co-publishing this journal with the Southern African Historical Society and has never offered to purchase the journal. A standard copyright licence applies to publish, and a Creative Commons licence is applicable if open access. It is a condition of publication that authors assign copyright or license the publication rights in their articles, including abstracts, to the Southern African Historical Society. This enables Routledge to ensure full copyright protection and to disseminate the article, and the journal, to the widest possible readership in print and electronic formats. Authors retain many rights under the Routledge rights policies, which can be found at <http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/preparation/copyright.asp>. The journal will use the standard Taylor & Francis licensing agreement, which is a copyright assignment form.

The journal was indexed on the IBSS but was discontinued from 2018. Impact factors have not been determined. Altimetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal fulfilled the technical requirements for listing in the DHET list of accredited journals and the IBSS list.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus Review: The Editors conveyed to the Panel that many of the concerns articulated by the reviewers are in the process of being addressed in order to re-establish the journal after a long period of dormancy. The Panel acknowledges the efforts made by the new Editors in reconstructing the journal. This acknowledgement of the measures taken by the Editors after the period of evaluation (2015–2017) cannot, however, subvert the reports submitted by the reviewers who strongly recommended changing the journal's title, description and scope.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
 - iii. **The Panel recommends that the Editors should consider transforming the identity of the journal by radically expanding its scope and link local histories to a broader trans-regional context.**
 - iv. **In addition, the Panel believes that the Editors should apply for re-accreditation once improvements have been made and it has successfully published two annual volumes.**
-

4.1.5 Kronos: Southern African Histories

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Kronos: Southern African Histories journal aims to promote innovative international historical research about southern Africa, broadly defined, and particularly the work of young scholars. It seeks to combine a rigorous commitment to high quality scholarship on the region with a longstanding interest in integrating visual and textual sources.

The journal features extensive coverage of South African history, humanities, as well as the history of the wider region. The primary target audience is international, regional and national scholars.

Readership is international in the open access electronic version accessible on the SciELO SA platform. The journal is also available on JSTOR, EBSCOhost, Current Abstracts, Index to South African Periodicals, America History and Life. The journal has a very small print run of 200 copies which are mainly confined to South African readers, with a growing international readership.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus Review: The journal is in a state of transition with a fairly new Editorial Team. The main Editorial Team is largely based at the University of the Western Cape with a more widely based Editorial Board. The Editors are respected scholars who reflect the historical and interdisciplinary perspective of the journal with a broad southern African focus.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Kronos was established in 1979 and publishes one issue per annum with 12 or more articles. It is accessible on the SciELO SA platform: <http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php>. The journal has received 311 817 views since joining the SciELO SA platform in 2010. The views between January 2015 and December 2017 were 146 811. The journal has a significant pool of graduates from southern, East and West Africa and readership possibly varies from issue to issue. The content of four of the top 20 articles downloaded in the three-year review period (with one occupying second position) concerns African countries, excluding South Africa.

Kronos is pre-scheduled to appear in December each year and issues appear regularly on the scheduled date. There have been no significant interruptions since inception.

During the three-year review period, 37 full articles, two review articles and five book reviews (not peer reviewed) were published. One photographic essay was also published in the same period. The number of manuscripts received over the same review period totalled 43. Five manuscripts were rejected without peer review and one after peer review. Fifty percent of the peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

At least two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript, except for review essays, for which only one peer reviewer is required. One peer reviewer is selected from the Editorial Board, and one specialist from the field or with related expertise. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is very rigorous. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database, although the Editorial Team appointed on four-five-year cycles gets a sense of the most skilled and efficient reviewers on the Board. In 2017, 24 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was 80%. Since 2016, the peer review reports have been accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print is six to eight months.

The Editorial Team has been in place for two years and were not appointed competitively. They were appointed for a five-year period. The members of the Editorial Board handle peer review. The Editorial Team is responsible for policy and practice. The members of the Editorial Board are appointed for a one-year period, and members of the Editorial Advisory Board are appointed from one year to six years. Members of the Board are appointed from inside and outside the country (48% USA and Europe; 42% southern Africa) to provide specific topical expertise and also for intellectual networks.

The journal has editorial guidelines. There is currently no conflict-of-interest policy, but the journal was planning to implement one in 2018. The guidelines are not formally aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* but the practices in regard to the role of Editors and peer review are aligned. Overall, the journal conforms to the essence of Part A of the ASSAf guidelines, with the exception of those aspects that pertain more to the sciences and social sciences than the humanities. Errata are published in the journal.

The value-added features published in the journal include critical editorials, critical topical reviews, and analytical book reviews. Ninety-five percent of pages in each issue represents peer-reviewed original material. Only the reviews are not peer-reviewed.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus Review: The articles are generally of a high standard in terms of content and expression, and indications are that they are edited well. There is a focus on publishing contributions from emerging scholars, but there is a good mix of both international and local contributors.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Generally good professional practices, but no proper abstracts in the last two special issues.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal credibly presents the work of both emerging and established scholars. This should further stimulate the interest of young academics in the specific field.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria, bibliometric assessments)

The University of the Western Cape is the owner and publisher of the journal. The regular print run is 200 copies per issue. The layout and design of the journal have been done by Jenny Sandler since 2001. Copy editing is done by Lee Smith and printing has been done by Tandym Print since 2008. There is no advertising in the journal. The journal receives financial sponsorship from JSTOR annually which covers most of the journal's costs.

The number of paying subscribers is 50, of which half are individuals. The journal charges page fees of R150.00 per page for South African authors. The journal uses an online management system, a manual system and uploads articles onto the web to manage the editorial workflow. Kronos is an open access journal.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. The journal articles are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence and copyright is retained by authors.

The journal is included on SciELO SA. There are no impact factors and altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The profile of the journal could be enhanced by reflecting a greater intellectual diversity within the field of social history. The scope should be broadened in order to attract a wider spectrum of contributors. There should be a clearer assessment of the impact of the journal in terms of readership through WoS, Google Scholar and Scopus. The journal should ensure that they add abstracts to the articles as per international standards and indexing requirements.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.**
 - iii. **The Panel recommends that the Editors should consider a broader focus and scope of the journal to attract more contributions from senior and international scholars.**
-

4.1.6 New Contree

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

New Contree's primary focus is publishing scholarly research articles. There is also an emphasis on engaging more substantial book reviews with one review article per issue. The focus and scope of the journal mainly encourage the submission of articles that have the following features: focused research on regional and local histories in southern Africa; multidisciplinary research; and related historical research in regions and local spaces in the humanities that clearly defines and articulates a fundamental historical approach. The all-embracing aim of New Contree's Editorial Board is to publish scholarly research from experts in the field of history. Yet the journal also embraces a diverse field of research in the humanities that compliments historical research and follows historical principles and methodology.

The New Contree journal is the only journal of its kind in South Africa that encourages and accommodates the dissemination of regional and local history on a very explicit platform, and publishes scientific research from experts in a diverse field of research in the humanities that serves history indirectly from other academic platforms and not just history as a discipline. To instil an awareness of local and regional history research, the Editorial Board in 2015 led the introduction of an

Annual Regional History Symposium that by 2019 had transformed into a regional history conference. Any papers submitted in article format from this symposium were welcomed but treated no differently from any other submission. Each submission was rigorously assessed by four peer reviewers externally to determine the publication quality and value.

The target audience for the journal is scholars in history who engage with regional and local histories. Other scholarly fields in the humanities that can relate to the regional and local research focus complementary to the historical practise are also considered. Apart from South African libraries, the journal also has subscribers outside southern Africa. It is hoped that the long-standing request for more open accessibility be granted in future through the SciELO SA platform. In the meantime, an effort has been made to create easy access through the NWU's institutional open access repository, Boloka, and through EBSCOhost which allows for article visibility on Google Scholar.

Despite *New Contree* not being on an open access platform, the journal currently has reasonably positioned itself on a variety of platforms internationally as well as nationally. Statistics on the percentage of *New Contree* membership enrolment serves as a guideline of the readership:

- Individuals: 21.5%
- Higher education and training institutions: 26.7%
- International institutions: 17.2%
- Libraries (national and international): 27.2%
- Heritage museums: 7.2%

These figures indicate that the number of subscribers related to heritage museums has declined. The reason for this decline can only be speculative, but it is known that paying journal subscription fees has become a challenge for some institutions.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor and the members of the Editorial Advisory Board have a degree of national standing, but they are not viewed as being endowed with a more elevated profile that could move the journal towards international exposure and status. The journal lacks a strong support system or distribution network outside the country.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in January 1977 under the former Institute of Historical Studies of the Human Sciences Research Council as *Contree*. Its original scope was only local and regional histories but that was slightly extended in 1996 to accommodate a multidisciplinary scholarship in regional studies with a historical angle. The scope change occurred shortly after the NWU's Mafikeng Campus recently took over the editorial obligations from the University of Johannesburg. The name of the journal also then changed to *New Contree*.

The journal is published biannually in July and December. Occasionally a supplementary issue may be considered to complement research on a particular region in southern Africa. Since 2012, a few supplementary issues have been published. The journal is accessible online on the Boloka/Manakin platform: <https://repository.nwu.ac.za/handle/10394/4969>.

Based on the only data available for *New Contree* from the Boloka/Manakin platform, the visits and download records are not distinguished and are as follows: total visits/views: 3 579 (in 2015), 597 (in 2016) and 5 238 (by February 2018). The journal is read in more than 10 countries worldwide. The Google Citation h-index is 6 and the growth in citation has exponentially increased since 2013.

The journal is also read in the following African countries: Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. There have not been any significant interruptions.

From January 2013 to December 2015, 66 scientific research articles and 79 book reviews were published. The first review article appeared in the December 2017 issue. The position of article Review Editor has been created to ensure a regular publication of review articles. Thus far, most papers reviewed do not derive from specific conferences in history and other disciplines. The Editors have tried to stimulate awareness of the journal at conferences of the South African Historical Society and the South African Historical Association. These initiatives seemed to have gained momentum after the November 2015 symposium conference for Regional History. The two keynote speeches at this symposium were peer reviewed and published. The number of manuscripts received over the same review period was 160. Submissions that visibly fall outside the focus and scope of the journal, are immediately returned to the author. On average, two articles per issue are returned to authors in this category. Manuscripts rejected after peer review were 50. The number of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 13.

Four peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Reviewers who default on the obligation to review meticulously are not approached again. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise on the topic. If there are experts on the Editorial Board regarding the topic of the manuscript, they are approached as peer reviewers. The journal also possesses a relatively extensive database of historians who are regularly approached to review articles. Also, international experts on the Editorial Board (currently six of them) are frequently contacted for reviews, and so far, all have been very cooperative and willing. A double-blind peer review process is followed. Identities and affiliations on both sides of the review process are not disclosed.

Implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. When the peer reviewers are chosen and they accept their review assignment, they are provided with a peer-assessment form to complete after having reviewed an article. They are also encouraged to work with the track changes option on the document itself as an additional form of providing feedback. Once the Editor-in-Chief receives the completed peer reviews from the four reviewers, the reviews are collectively assessed, and a decision is made. The Editor thereafter informs the author whether the manuscript is accepted/rejected or encourages resubmission in instances of major or minor revisions. In the case of major revision when manuscripts are totally revised and resubmitted, a blind review process is reopened which sometimes involves the same reviewers. Once a manuscript has been revised satisfactorily, and the author has responded in formal writing to indicate how and what they have corrected, it will be formally reviewed by the Editors. The manuscript will then be officially accepted if there is compliance with the major suggestions and prepared for publication.

Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information, unless they requested a total revision of a manuscript, in which case the same reviewers are approached to revisit the manuscript by following the same rigorous process. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A database is kept of each peer assessment form received from the peer reviewers. The data allow the Editor and Technical Control Editor to assess reviewer performance continuously. For the December 2015 issue, 27 peer reviewers were used in total. Eventually only six articles were approved, and three articles were either rejected or returned for total revision and resubmission. For the December 2017 issue, 45 peer reviewers were used in total. Eventually nine articles were approved, and six articles rejected or returned for total revision and resubmission. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses in the December 2015 issue was two. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is approximately eight to ten months. Online publication occurs after the printing process has been completed. The articles for a particular issue are submitted for online visibility to the Boloka system.

The Editor-in-Chief has been in office for 11 years. A new Editor-in-Chief has been nominated but cannot currently take up the position due to completing further studies. The Editor-in-Chief was nominated by the members of the Editorial Advisory Board in January 2008. No process was put in place for a specific appointment period of the Editor-in-Chief. A proper structure was introduced soon after 2008 for Editorial Board membership and eligibility for nomination as Editor-in-Chief. Since then, the Editor was asked in 2012, 2016 and more recently by the Editorial Board to continue in this position until a new person could take it on. The nominated person will be able to fully take up the role by 2023–2024 and this will be close to the time that the term of the current Editorial Board ends. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board are appointed for a term of four years. The Editorial Board includes two Editors, one Technical Control Editor, one Review Article Editor, and one Book Review Editor. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board are also appointed for a term of four years. After a four-year term, new members are nominated and, if available, appointed. Current members can be re-nominated if willing to be re-appointed. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board are nominated by the existing Board and formally approached. If willing and after submission of their CV, the Editorial Advisory Board discusses and decides on the merits of appointment. Degree of expertise in the subject matter and the need for diverse representation of Board members normally are criteria in the final selection process. The *New Contree* Editorial Board currently has several international and national members of standing, and at least two members of the Board are located in other southern African countries.

The editorial guidelines are available online <http://dspace.nwu.ac.za/handle/10394/34643>. There is no conflict-of-interest policy. The only requirement expected of reviewers is that they should declare any known or suspected association or conflict of interest with the author or content of the article, after having received the anonymised manuscript for review. The Editorial Board is aware of ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* and has taken cognisance of this Code in the administering of the *New Contree* journal. An important aspect which the Board currently is looking into is the use of "Turnitin" as part of the process before possible approval and publication. It has never been necessary to publish errata, as none has been brought forward. If an erratum is reported, it will be rectified in the following issue. To properly manage errata (and retractions) a policy based on legal principles probably is necessary. The process of developing such a policy will be followed up with ASSAf.

Critical editorials and 'News and Views' analyses of articles published, are value-added features currently published in the journal. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material on average is 85% to 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal needs to redefine itself more clearly as its original focus has been diluted. The quality of the articles is mixed and ranges from very good to rather mediocre and sometimes obscure. The journal needs to attract more submissions of a higher quality. The journal should improve its national standing and its international visibility by attracting more international authors and more high-profile southern African authors. The articles per annum have substantially declined since 2015. The journal draws the bulk of its output from just three South African institutions and relies to some extent on non-academic authors.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are grammatical errors in the editor's questionnaire, and this raises some concerns on the quality of papers. Language editing and copy editing should be improved to avoid undermining the overall professional presentation of the journal.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal has the potential for providing a stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the field of history. There are indications, however, that the journal is over-reliant on postgraduate student submissions for its published output which frequently occurs in conjunction with a senior academic/supervisor. This raises questions about the robustness of the peer-review process. Due to its restrictive focus on southern Africa and due to the lack of contributions from high-profile scholars, it is hardly visible internationally.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The NWU is the overseer of the journal and is also tasked with ensuring that the publishing is done through an outsourced company. The regular print run is 100 copies per issue. The production is outsourced but the distribution is internally managed and operated by an administrative staff member of Subject Group History at the Vanderbijlpark Campus. There is no advertising in the journal. Some infrastructural and managerial support is provided by the North- West University, but the *New Contree* journal is operated fully independently through the page fees recouped from local authors.

There are 145 paying subscribers. Approximately 75.9% of the subscribers are organisations. The journal charges a page fee of R300 per page. The page fee charges are imposed as the journal cannot properly function without this income. The Editorial Advisory Board reviews the page fee on an annual basis. International contributions and contributions from other countries in Africa are not charged, so national contributions mostly subsidise all the page fee expenses of international contributions and book reviews. The journal uses a manual system, an online management system and uploads articles onto the web to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is freely accessible online (open access) through the Boloka platform.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright on all material in *New Contree* lies within the authority of the Editorial Board. Fair copying of the journal for research and educational purposes is permitted, but copying is not permitted for commercial purposes. Authors only are obligated to confirm in writing that the article submitted is original and has not been published in any other peer-reviewed journal or is not under consideration by any other journal. Authors should also inform the journal if they want to republish their articles in other formats, which is allowed for not-for-profit purposes provided that *New Contree* is recognised as the source.

The journal is included on Boloka/Manakin, Bowker International Serials Database, Google Scholar, International Bibliography, and the Serials Directory Birmingham. Impact factors have not yet been determined. Altmetric indicators are administered on the Boloka platform. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET in 2010.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal needs to redefine its focus as a history journal with interdisciplinary ambitions more clearly. The journal should improve its national standing and its international visibility by attracting more international authors and more high-profile southern African authors. It should also increase its efforts to encourage more young and promising authors from other parts of Africa. In addition, the Editorial Advisory Board should include more international scholars, especially from other African countries.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the Editors should improve international visibility by attracting more high-profile southern African and international authors.
 - iv. In addition, the Panel believes that the journal should re-define its focus and be more selective in accepting articles that convincingly engage with the core discipline of history.
-

4.1.7 South African Historical Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Historical Journal* is fully accredited, peer reviewed and internationally regarded as a premier history journal published in South Africa, promoting significant historical scholarship on the country as well as the southern African region. As the journal of the Southern African Historical Society, it has provided a high-quality medium for original thinking about South African history and has thus shaped – and continues to contribute towards defining – the historiography of the region.

Published quarterly, the *South African Historical Journal* publishes a wide variety of material, encompassing issues ranging in time from those around pre-colonial communities to those pertinent to a society in transition in the early 21st century, the practice and teaching of history and debates about heritage and the commemoration of the past. It includes ground-breaking innovative research, general historical and historiographical overviews, historical debates and rejoinders, interviews with historians and reflections on their work, review articles and critical reviews of important books.

The journal aims to reach a broad audience that includes students, lecturers, scholars, historians, and academics in the broad field of the social sciences.

The *South African Historical Journal* is available to readers in both print and online, and through various subsidiaries. The journal is available to approximately 94 and 350 institutions and libraries in South Africa and the rest of Africa, respectively. In addition, the *South African Historical Journal* is also available to 2 026 institutions and libraries as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals. These figures also include access via EBSCOhost and development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editors, Book Review Editor and members of the Editorial Board have high national and international disciplinary standing. The quality of the journal is very impressive, and it is viewed as the leading history journal in the field.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *South African Historical Journal* was established in 1969 and is published quarterly. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform: www.tandfonline.com/rshj. The journal received 86 867 page views and 27 259 full-text downloads in 2017. It is read in 110 countries, including 26 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, September and December and appear regularly on the scheduled dates. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 71 full articles, two review articles and 53 book reviews were published. The journal also published the following papers over the same review period: conference papers (which included one conference keynote address, one presidential address), three editorials,

one special issue closing remark, three obituaries, two commentaries, and one interview. Conference papers go through the peer-review process in the same way as full articles. The journal received 160 original articles, 61 book review articles and 11 review articles/essays through the online submission system between 2015 and 2017. A total of 22 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 33 after peer review. About 38% of authors who provided addresses had a non-South African address in the review period.

Two to three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on their field of specialisation. The journal follows a 'double-blind' process of evaluation of material. The names of authors are not disclosed to reviewers, and the identities of reviewers are not revealed to authors. The implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement is very rigorous. If an author does not sufficiently address reviewers' comments and suggestions in the revisions, the Editor dealing with the submission can send the manuscript back for further revisions until the Editor is satisfied that the author has addressed all key issues. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. A reviewer's performance is assessed by the Editor following the submission of the review report. The assessment is based on the relevance of the report and timeous submission. In 2017, 85 peer reviewers were used. Of the 85, 63 provided their address and 39 were based outside South Africa. All the peer review reports are archived through ScholarOne and remain accessible to Editors via this system. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is six to twelve months.

There is no Editor-in-Chief and the current Editorial Collective has been serving the journal for between three and 13 years. The Editorial Collective has been appointed competitively for a four-year renewable term. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review where appropriate for the topic but do not provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members of the Board have been in office since 2011 and were appointed through invitation. Their term of office ranges from four to five years. This is determined by the South African Historical Society Executive Council in conjunction with the Editorial Collective. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has an Instructions for Authors page on the journal website. The publisher is a member of COPE. All of the Routledge, Taylor & Francis journals, including the *South African Historical Journal* abide by the COPE guidelines on publication ethics: <http://publicationethics.org/about>. The guidelines of the journal are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*, as the Editorial Collective was not aware of ASSAf's guidelines at the time of the review. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines.

The value-added features published in the journal include critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles published, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, correspondence on published articles (commentaries and rejoinders), and interviews with authors. Each volume contains about 90% peer-reviewed content.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal is widely respected as a leading outlet for high-quality articles. Useful additional scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence, etc. add to the high standing of the journal.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal maintains excellent standards regarding all technical aspects.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal is definitely suitable as an important platform for supporting emerging scholars.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria, bibliometric assessments)

The owner of the journal is the Southern African Historical Society, and the publisher is Unisa Press and Routledge. The Taylor & Francis UK print run is about 100 copies per issue (it is flexible according to requirements), and the Unisa Press South African print run is 200 copies per issue. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The UK print issues add free advertisement to balance page composition. The journal does not receive any financial support.

Article-processing charges (APCs) are not levied. The journal uses ScholarOne as an online management system. The journal is not open access and articles are password protected. The content is accessed by subscribers via the *South African Historical Journal* Taylor & Francis webpage. The journal, however, operates on an open-select model meaning that authors can choose to publish open access after their article has been rigorously peer reviewed and accepted by the journal Editor. This further means that these open-access articles can be read by anyone, anywhere immediately upon publication. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries via initiatives such as STAR, Research4Life, INASP and TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library). The journal is part of a commercial e-publication service.

The publisher, Taylor & Francis (Routledge), is multinational but has a South African based office and works with co-publishers Unisa Press and NISC. The Southern African Historical Society retains ownership of the journal. In terms of copyright agreement, authors sign a form which assigns copyright to the Southern African Historical Society, and this process is managed by Taylor & Francis. The Society manages the intellectual property rights in each article, maintains the article as the version of record, and can represent articles in cases of copyright infringement. As an alternative, a licence to publish is available for book reviews and for if authors wish to avoid the transfer of copyright. The journal uses the standard Taylor & Francis licensing agreement, which is a copyright assignment form.

The *South African Historical Journal* is currently abstracted and indexed by African Studies Abstracts Online; America: History and Life; Current Abstracts; Historical Abstracts; Humanities International Index; IBSS; International Index to Black Periodicals; Clarivate Analytics Arts & Humanities Citation Index; and Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Index.

The journal has the following impact factors: WoS 2016 impact factor = 0.180; five-year impact factor = 0.288; ranking = 71/87 (History); ©Clarivate Analytics, Journal Citation Reports 2016. On Scopus, the metrics values are: SNIP 2016 = 0.166 and SJR 2016 = 0.125; CiteScore rank = 431/912; Scopus® and Journal Metrics®. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. Data such as number of views per article are available via the webpage. Altmetric Attention Scores have now also been added to all journal articles published since January 2012, offering users a more complete picture of how readers are engaging with research articles, whether via traditional or social media, blogs or online reference managers.

The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been independently reviewed before by Thomson Reuters (now Clarivate Analytics) for inclusion in the WoS and Scopus.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal should consider introducing special issues on international cooperative debates and projects. A section on conferences should be considered to cover junior scholars' meetings, conferences, working groups, etc. The Editors should develop and enforce some guidelines

about what a good editorial introduction should contain. This should include a substantiated rationale and an overview of the individual contributions and how they are linked.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with publishers change and become open access.**
 - iii. **The Panel recommends that the Editors should solicit more articles in particular areas, such as on innovative research methodologies in historical investigations.**
-

4.1.8 Yesterday and Today

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Yesterday & Today is the only national, accredited, educationally focused, peer-reviewed, online history journal that publishes articles on history teaching and learning. The journal, therefore, provides an important platform for historians, methodologists, educationists, and history teachers alike to publish their research findings, and to improve the knowledge dissemination in terms of history subject matters. Although the journal functions financially and administratively totally separately from its mother organisation, the South African Society for History Teaching (SASHT), the journal's activities, needs and aspects of quality control are reported during the annual SASHT conferences. The SASHT conference paper presentations are often submitted in article format to the journal. These are rigorously externally peer reviewed to improve their publication value. The detailed annual reports and keynote addresses of the SASHT conferences, as well as the Annual General Meeting minutes, are also published in the journal.

About 75% of the journal articles are scientific research articles which are focused on the following research areas:

- History teaching: Research reports dealing with the methodology and practise of History teaching.
- Educational history: The history of any education-related theme.
- History research: Scientific research that relates to any historical content or theme, especially that represented in the History curricula of southern Africa. The journal requires that all contributions should at least be related to General Education and Training (GET), Further Education and Training (FET), or Higher Education and Training (HET) curricular content. The research themes should also be linked to History teaching in general, and/or classroom teaching in particular.

The remaining 25% of the articles in the journal are hands-on articles. These articles are based on the contributor's personal experiences with history, within or outside of the classroom.

The overarching aim of the journal is to publish sound scholarly research reports that directly or indirectly relate to the field of history teaching. In essence, the journal's accommodative scope complements interdisciplinary research, and articles related to this field (whether from educators of history, historians, or didacticians) are always welcome.

The journal's intended audience is scholars from southern Africa, the rest of Africa and abroad. The open accessibility of the journal also allows scholars from a variety of fields to have easy access to the journal's archive.

The journal currently performs very well internationally, because of its open accessibility and availability to readers on platforms such as SciELO SA, Boloka (the open access institutional repository of the NWU), the DOAJ and the SASHT.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Editor are both known academics in the field, but they are both from the same institution (NWU), although one is in History Education and the other in the History Department. The Editorial Board includes local and international academics of high standing, as well as representatives from schools, which is useful given the journal's focus. It also may be useful to include a second Assistant Editor from a different institution to ensure more diversity.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was founded in 1981 with the title *Yesterday and Today: Magazine for History Teaching / Gister en Vandag: Tydskrif vir Geskiedenisonderrig*. Because of financial constraints, it ceased to exist in 1997. In 2006 an effort was made to revive the journal, and it was successfully re-launched as *Yesterday & Today*. Since then all articles have been published in English only. The journal received accreditation from the DHET in January 2012. It is published biannually in July and December of each year. There have been no interruptions of any nature in the publication process.

The journal is available online on the following links: http://sashtw.org.za/?page_id=1763 (SASHT's website); <http://dspace.nwu.ac.za/handle/10394/5126> (Boloka); and http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_serial&pid=2223-0386 (SciELO SA platform). The total number of visits since 2010 is 2670. For the period August 2017 to February 2018, the journal was visited 162 times. Only these statistics were available in 2018. At the start of 2017, the journal was rated among the top five journals in terms of the average number of documents views the journal has had in the SciELO SA collection. In the five-year period from 2013 to 2017, the journal was cited 177 times (source: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=x9upRlwAAAA>).

The journal was read in more than 10 countries including the USA, Russia, Germany, France, China, UK, Canada, Netherlands, and Ukraine. It was also read in eight other African countries in addition to South Africa: Namibia, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Swaziland, and Lesotho.

From January 2012 (first year of accreditation) to December 2017, 68 scientific research articles were published covering 1 532 pages in total and 31 hands-on articles covering 280 pages in total. From 2015 to 2017, 36 scientific research articles were published covering 780 pages and 16 hands-on articles covering 112 pages. The annual keynote addresses served as review articles during the past years. This is a section that the Editorial Board can perhaps explore and invest in more constructively. From January 2015 to December 2017, 14 book reviews were published. The Editorial Board originally only reviewed publications of value to history teaching and learning. Recently, a broader variety of publications useful in a classroom situation has been reviewed. This is also a section that the Editorial Board will improve on. The number of keynote addresses at the annual conferences of the SASHT Teaching from January 2015 to December 2017 was only two. A number of presidential speeches at the SASHT's annual conferences from January 2015 to December 2017 were also published. Other papers published from January 2015 to December 2017 include one research report; two regional reports; and two conference summaries of the SASHT by the chairperson. The number of manuscripts received from 2015 to 2017 was 19 full articles, two review articles, 15 book reviews, one research report and two conference summaries of the SASHT annual conferences by the chairperson. One or two of the manuscripts were rejected without peer review. If submissions are made that fall outside of the focus and scope of the journal, the Editor will reject the manuscripts immediately. In most cases, the submitted manuscripts were presented according to the guidelines of the journal. Therefore,

manuscripts normally are sent to peer reviewers for review. In terms of full articles, six were rejected after peer review. No rejections occurred in the other listed categories. The number of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 15.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. However, if a discourse on the outcome arises, a third reviewer will be approached. If there are appropriate experts on the Editorial Board regarding the topic of the manuscript, they will be the first choice as peer reviewers. Otherwise, the Editor-in-Chief will submit a manuscript to an appropriate expert(s) nationally or internationally. Reviewers who do not respond to the Editor's request will not be used again. A double-blind peer review process is followed. The reviewers are not informed about the identity of the author(s) or their affiliations/institutions. The reviewers also remain anonymous throughout the review process and beyond. When the peer reviewers are chosen and they accept the review assignment, they are provided with a peer-assessment form to be completed. Once the Editor receives the completed peer-review form from the reviewers, he will assess them collectively, and then make a decision, either on his own or in consultation with the Assistant Editor. The Editor will then inform the author about the outcome of the manuscript, whether it was accepted/rejected or invited to be resubmitted in the case of major or minor revisions. In the latter case, where manuscripts are accepted pending revision, the authors must resubmit the revised manuscript which will then go through all, or some, of the above review stages again. Once a manuscript has been revised satisfactorily, it will be officially accepted and prepared for publication. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The Editor re-assigns the manuscripts to the original peer reviewers in the case of revisions to assess whether the recommended improvements as specified on the peer-assessment form were diligently attended to. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A database is kept of each and every peer-assessment form received from the peer reviewers. This allows the Editor and Assistant Editor to assess the reviewers' performance on a continuous basis. In 2017, 18 peer reviewers were used. The number of these reviewers who had non-South African addresses was two. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication is six months for both print and online.

The Editor has been in office for the past three and a half years. The Editor had been a member of the Editorial Board of the journal intermittently since 1992. He was then appointed as Editor by the members of the Editorial Advisory Board in January 2014 and accepted the position from August 2014. The appointment period was from August 2014 to August 2018 (four years). Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Deliberations on aspects pertaining to the journal normally take place at the annual Editorial Advisory Board meeting in August/September of each year. The term of office for members of the Editorial Board is three to four years after which new members are nominated and, if available, appointed, and current members can be re-nominated, if willing to be re-appointed. Members of the Editorial Board are nominated by the existing Board and formally approached. If willing, and after submitting their CVs, the Editorial Board discusses and decides on the merits of appointments. The level of expertise in the subject matter and the need for a diverse representation of Board members normally are criteria in the final selection process. Board members are appointed from inside as well as outside of the country. Currently, the Editorial Board has several international members, and in terms of the national representation, a balance between educators on FET and HET levels is sustained.

The journal has editorial guidelines which can be accessed from this link: http://sashtw.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/YT_18_Dec-2017-edition.pdf pp. 156-165. There is no conflict-of-interest policy. The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*, although the Editorial Board of the journal is still in the process of developing a legal retraction policy that ASSAf undertook to assist the journal with. The publication of errata has never been necessary, but if an erratum does occur, it will be addressed in the following issue. A policy based on legal principles is necessary to properly manage errata (and retractions). The journal is in the process of developing such a policy.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials; 'news and views' analyses of the articles published; and analytical book reviews. In terms of this category, the journal is adding value to the intellectual debate and contributes to the discourse and developments in the field of history. However, there is room for improvement. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 75%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The majority of papers deal with issues related to history education methodology and pedagogy. As such, the journal fills a relevant niche market. The articles are interesting, generally well written, and relevant to the journal's theme and the South African context.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The technical aspects are handled in a professional manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal provides an important platform for high-quality debates about the state and future of History education in South Africa and Africa. There are indications that the journal has become an outlet for international contributors. It is suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students/young staff in the discipline concerned.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The NWU is the guardian of the journal and promotes the publishing of the journal, and, in many ways, does so independently from the SASHT as the actual owner. The journal Editorial Board therefore also annually reports to the SASHT. The regular print run is 150 per issue. The production is outsourced, but the distribution is internally managed and operated. The journal does not carry any advertising. Some financial support is provided by the NWU, but in the long term, the plan is to secure the financial independence of the journal through APCs alone.

There are 150 paying subscribers. The journal currently performs very well internationally, because of its open accessibility and availability to readers through platforms such as SciELO SA, Boloka, DOAJ and the SASHT. The journal charges APCs of R220 per page, but hands-on articles, keynote addresses, and international contributions are not charged. The editorial workflow is managed using an online management system, articles are uploaded to the web, and a manual system is also used. The journal is freely accessible online.

There have been offers to purchase the journal from multinational publishers. Copyright on all material published in the journal resides within the Editorial Advisory Board. Educational and fair use copying of the materials in the journal for research and not for profit is permitted. There is no licensing agreement with the authors, other than their declaration that the article is original and has not been previously published in any other peer-reviewed journal, or that it is not under consideration by any other journal. The authors are aware of the journals' open access associations.

The journal appears on Boloka; Google Scholar; and SciELO SA. According to SciELO SA, the impact factor for journal citation reports on a three-year basis (2014-2016) was 0.0426. There are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently reviewed in 2011 when application was made for accreditation from the DHET.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: Educators in History, the intended readership for the journal, would find more book reviews useful in terms of guiding their reading of academic history. It is recommended that the Board should consider whether abstracts in English and French may not broaden the journal's appeal significantly.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the Editors should consider strategies to broaden the significant appeal of the journal for scholars in other African countries.
-



4.2 International Studies & Multidisciplinary

4.2.1 African Studies

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

African Studies is an international interdisciplinary journal which aims to publish high-quality conceptual and empirical writing relevant to Africa. The journal welcomes critical investigations of social dynamics in Africa, grounded in relevant illustrative, qualitative, and evidentiary approaches. It encourages innovative contributions from established and new scholars that not only reflect current conceptual thinking but also draw upon Africa in order to question received theoretical and methodological paradigms.

With an active Editorial Board that encompasses scholars from a variety of disciplines based at both South African and international universities, the journal seeks to foster an interdisciplinary and global conversation from, with and about Africa. Significant disciplines include but are not limited to anthropology, critical race, gender and sexuality studies, geography, history, literary, cultural and media studies, sociology, and politics.

African Studies is available to readers in both print and online, and through various subsidiaries. The journal is available to approximately 30 institutions and libraries in South Africa and approximately 330 institutions and libraries in the rest of Africa, respectively. Nearly 100 institutions in Africa also have access to *African Studies* via EBSCOhost. The journal is also available to more than 3 800 institutions and libraries outside Africa as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals and via EBSCOhost. Nearly 2 900 additional institutions worldwide also have access to *African Studies* via development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal is based at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the Editorial Board is dominated by South African scholars and in particular Wits-based scholars. The Editors have significant national standing although they are not yet senior scholars.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

African Studies was established in 1921 and is published quarterly. It is accessible online through the Taylor & Francis platform <http://www.tandfonline.com/cast>. The journal has become more accessible to readers via growing online-only sales packages with institutions and as part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Library (SSH Library). Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, September and December. There have been no recorded interruptions to publication.

In total, 81 full articles were published over the three-year review period. The number of full manuscripts received over the three-year review period was 485. Manuscripts rejected without peer review were 263 and a total of 53 manuscripts were rejected after peer review. Approximately 41% of the peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

On average, there are two rounds of review with two reviewers usually approached for each round of review. Peer reviewers are selected from a database of academics in various fields which has been built up and maintained over time. Peer reviews are conducted in a 'blind way' and there is rigorous implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information and reviewer performance is assessed and information captured in a database. The total number of 100 peer reviewers were used in 2017. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was unknown at the time of the review. The peer review reports were accessibly retained

in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six months before the print deadline. Hard copies are printed according to the publisher's schedule.

The current Editorial Team (four Editors) has been in office between one and three years. Editors are appointed after their CVs and letters of motivation are sent forward to the Editorial Board. The term of office for the Editorial Team is between three to five years. Some members of the Editorial Board have been in office for over 15 years and some between five and ten years. There is a selection process for the Editorial Board members from within the Board where both incumbents and those exiting have a say in the new members. Former Editors automatically become Board members. There is no set period of appointment. Active scholars are kept on in their positions and positions are filled for retiring colleagues. Members of the Board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country. More than half of the members are based abroad. The Board members also provide specific disciplinary expertise.

There are editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy which can be found online via the ScholarOne portal. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines. An erratum will be used if an important error has been introduced by Taylor & Francis during the production of the journal article, including errors of omission such as failure to make factual proof corrections requested by authors within the deadline provided by the journal and within the journal's policy. All errata are linked to the version of scholarly record of the article which they correct.

The journal only publishes value-added feature such as academic debates. Approximately 100% of the pages in each issue represents peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles published in the journal are of a good standard and the journal focuses on original contributions. This can be attributed to a high level of scrutiny by reviewers. A good balance exists between the South African and non-South African contributors, although the content is considered to be too South African centred for a journal aimed at Africa. Apart from the research articles and some debates, the journal does not contain any additional features such as editorials and book reviews.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Articles are accompanied by suitable abstracts, the publication of errata is appropriate, and the citation practice is good and in line with the editorial guidelines. The overall presentation, design and layout of the journal is good.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: In terms of contextual content and interdisciplinary focus, the journal is comparable to similar international journals. It is also comparable in terms of its peer-review process. It is a well-run journal.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

African Studies is owned by the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis. The regular print run is ca. 200. The production of the journal is managed by the publisher, Taylor & Francis, in the UK. Hard copy and electronic distribution are done by Taylor & Francis, which also uses subscription agencies like EBSCOhost. International print distribution is

managed by Taylor & Francis in the UK. The journal does not carry advertising and it does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are no page charges or APCs. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system (ScholarOne); and articles for publication are uploaded to the website. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. However, the publisher is multinational and has a South African-based office. Wits retains ownership of the journal and holds full copyright in *African Studies*. Authors are asked to transfer copyright to Wits. This enables Taylor & Francis, on behalf of Wits, to ensure protection against infringement.

African Studies is covered by the following abstracting, indexing and citation services: Abstracts in Anthropology; African Studies Abstracts Online; Applied Social Science Index; Current Bibliography on African Affairs; Google Scholar; IBSS; International Political Science Abstracts; Scopus; Sociological Abstracts; and Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Citation Index. The 2014 impact factor was 0.348; the journal is included in the Area Studies category. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. Altmetric data to all articles published have been added since January 2012. The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. It has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editorial Board is too Wits-based. It would benefit from scholars from a broader range of institutions, including other African countries.

The content of the journal is also too South African centred. The Editors should consider engaging reputable scholars regionally and internationally for contributions.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with publishers change and it become open access.
 - iii. The Editor should seriously consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.2.2 International Journal of African Renaissance Studies: Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies (IJARS)* is a forum for scholarship on the challenges facing Africa today and seeks to promote research, policy analyses and teaching that locates African people at the centre of the development agenda. The journal is committed to producing and using knowledge to empower and strengthen Africa, its people and its diaspora. The journal covers multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary approaches in examining the African Renaissance and the repositioning of Africa within the world system. Owing to the journal's inter- and cross-disciplinary character, it affords the research community, whether local, continental or international, an opportunity to publish its research on or about Africa. The journal provides a repository for scholarly work that represents high standards in academia, while transcending narrow academia to offer solutions to Africa's challenges and to revitalise the commitment to Africa's rebirth and repositioning. As an inseparable part of the world and world systems, the transformation of Africa and Africans requires a quest for fundamental changes in the historically constructed global order. It is in this context that *IJARS* informs, maps and channels Africa's intellectual capital and heritage.

The target audience is anyone interested in finding solutions for Africa's problems framed by the African Renaissance ideals. In practice, the audience therefore embraces the African continent and the African diaspora. *IJARS* is available to readers in both print and online, and through various subsidiaries. The journal is available to approximately 20 institutions and libraries in South Africa and approximately 330 institutions and libraries in the rest of Africa. Nearly 50 institutions in Africa also have access to *IJARS* via EBSCOhost. *IJARS* is available to more than 2 250 institutions and libraries outside Africa as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals and via EBSCOhost. More than 7 000 additional institutions worldwide also have access to *IJARS* via development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board consists of many University of South Africa (Unisa) scholars which gives the impression of insularity. It lacks international standing.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 2006 and publishes two issues per year. It is accessible on the Taylor & Francis platform: <http://www.tandfonline.com/rars> or <http://www.tandf.co.za/journals>. *IJARS* received 20 915 page views and 4 487 full-text downloads in 2014. The journal was read in 101 countries, of which 33 are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in June and November. There have not been any significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 25 full articles were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same review period was 137 in total. Articles designated to the Imbizo section are selected internally, by the Managing Editor in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, from those selected for publication after peer review. The rejection rate is between 40% and 70%, including those that are sent back for revision before publishing. Five full articles were rejected without peer review, and 19 after peer review. Of the 68 published articles and Imbizos, between 30% and 60% require revision of some sort. The journal does not regard this as a negative reflection on submissions, but rather an important capacity-building exercise. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 44%.

A minimum of two but sometimes up to four peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. There is a discipline-specific database that has been compiled so that manuscripts can be reviewed by specialist peers. This database is updated on a regular, as-needed basis. When necessary, the Editor speaks to colleagues or a network of friends requesting suggestions if there is no one on the database with the expertise required. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. Contributors are required to itemise the ways in which the article has addressed the peer reviewers' recommendations. Revised articles are frequently sent back to the original reviewers to ascertain satisfactory revision. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. Hard copies are also printed and filed for inspection. The journal has moved to ScholarOne which facilitates the review process as it is an online peer review system hosted by Taylor & Francis (Routledge). In 2015, 44 peer reviewers were used. Approximately 10% of these reviewers had non-South African addresses. The peer review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records and they are stored electronically and in hard copy. From 2018, they will be stored online by Taylor & Francis.

The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 180 days. Hard copies are printed several days after the online issue has been compiled. Articles are published online once ready, before being assigned to an issue at a later date. This is different for every article.

The Editor has been in office for 11 years. The Editor was approached by Unisa's founding Editor and the then Dean to 'rescue' the journal. In four years, the Editor took the journal from being DHET accredited to the international platforms of IBSS, Clarivate Analytics and Scopus and to a C3 quintile rating. The Managing Editor has been in office for four years; the appointment period was initially for two years and the contract was renewed for a further two years. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. The Editorial Board members have been in office for three to nine years. The Editorial Committee is reviewed before each issue and if Board members fail to collaborate in the review process, they are removed. The term for the Editorial Advisory Board varies. When deemed necessary, new members are appointed. The positions of the members of the Editorial Board are not by advertisement but by proven expertise. Their appointment period is not fixed, and they are appointed from inside and outside the country. The journal and its administrators are fully international.

There are 'Instructions for Authors' and preamble for policy statement in the journal. The conflict-of-interest policy can be accessed online at: <http://www.tandf.co.za/journals>. The editorial guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines. An erratum will be used if an important error has been introduced by Taylor & Francis during the production of the journal article (one that affects the publication record, the scientific integrity of the paper, the reputation of the authors or of the journal), including errors of omission such as failure to make factual proof corrections requested by authors within the deadline provided by the journal and within journal policy. All errata are linked to the version of scholarly record of the article which they correct. The journal does not publish errata for typing errors except where an apparently simple error is significant (for example, an incorrect unit). A significant error in a figure or table is corrected by publication of a new corrected figure or table as an erratum. The figure or table is republished only if the Editor considers it necessary.

The following value-added features are included in the journal: critical editorials; critical topical reviews; Imbizo; and the record. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of articles is generally good, although there seems to be a high number of articles from emerging scholars and less representation of established scholars.

The journal consists of a number of enrichment features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews (though infrequent) and scholarly correspondence. However, some analytical reports on topical issues of the day are not scholarly. The journal also features an 'Imbizo' section, which carries peer-reviewed reports and think pieces from seasoned professionals, activists, and politicians. This section is not consistent, and its utility is not clear.

There is an underrepresentation of contributions from the rest of the African continent and the diaspora.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Articles are accompanied by suitable abstracts. The citation practice as well as the presentation and layout cannot be faulted. However, some discrepancy exists in the editing quality of articles. Some papers from Unisa in particular are not well edited.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal provides young emerging scholars with an outlet to publish.

The journal is not comparable to leading international journals in the field. However, it provides a stimulus for local graduates and young staff in the discipline.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The University of South Africa's Institute for African Renaissance Studies is the owner of the journal, and it is co-published with Unisa Press and Taylor & Francis. The regular print run is 120 copies per issue for sub-Saharan distribution. The 2017 special issue on Elections in Africa had a print-run of 500 copies. The production and distribution of the journal is managed by Unisa Press and Taylor & Francis. International print distribution is managed by Taylor & Francis in the UK. The journal carries unpaid advertising (exchange advertisements) and also has an option of paid advertising. The journal does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are currently no page charges or APCs. Articles are submitted online through ScholarOne and are blind peer reviewed. Once the Editor or Deputy Editor has vetted the abstracts, articles then follow a digital production workflow through Routledge's bespoke online production system. The journal is free to all sub-Saharan tertiary institutions. However, *IJARS* is included in the Open Select programme, meaning that, following acceptance of their article, authors can pay an APC to have their article made perpetually open access. Authors thus have the option to publish their articles open access. However, NRF-funded papers will be published open access to comply with the new requirements communicated in January 2015.

IJARS is part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service, where users can either subscribe directly to a journal or subscribe to a subject library collection in which the journal is included. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries via initiatives such as STAR, INASP and Research4Life.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but the publisher is multinational with a South African-based office and works with a co-publisher, Unisa Press. Copyright arrangements are available on this link: <http://www.tandf.co.za/journals>. By way of a licence to publish agreement (Journal Author Publication Agreement), which all authors are asked to sign upon acceptance for publication, authors retain copyright but transfer to Unisa Press the rights to publish the articles they contribute. This enables Routledge/Taylor & Francis, on behalf of Unisa Press, to ensure protection against infringement.

IJARS is accredited by DHET and indexed by the International Bibliography for Social Sciences (IBSS), Clarivate Analytic's WoS Emerging Sources Citation Index, and Scopus and has an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are determined. The journal uses number of downloads, citations and Altmetric Attention Scores to monitor the performance of the journal. Data such as number of views per article and Altmetric Attention Scores are available via the journal's Taylor & Francis page. Taylor & Francis has added Altmetric data to all articles published since January 2012, offering users a more complete picture of how readers engage with research articles. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been independently reviewed before by DHET, IBSS, Thomson Reuters (now Clarivate Analytics) and Scopus.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editorial Board which consists of many Unisa scholars should be more diverse to include scholars from other African countries.

The journal should consider featuring more contributions from across the continent and the African diaspora to do justice to its title. It should also endeavour to attract articles from more established scholars. This could be achieved through publishing special issues that solicit contributions from scholars on the continent and the African diaspora.

The journal could consider publishing three issues per year.

The journal should consider strengthening the book review section of the journal, with a dedicated Book Review Editor. Regular reviews will add significant value to the journal.

The journal should consider articulating clearly what the aim of the 'Imbizo' section is and be consistent about how often this section appears in the journal.

Copy editing should be improved. The publication schedule should also be improved.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with publishers change and it become open access.**
 - iii. **The Editor should seriously consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.**
-

4.2.3 Journal of African Elections

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of African Elections* (JAE) is an interdisciplinary biannual publication of research and writing in the human sciences which seeks to promote a scholarly understanding of developments and change in Africa.

The journal provides up-to-date and topical information on elections and democratisation on the continent. While it is continental in scope, it includes articles on country-specific events and from time to time has special editions that are country specific (e.g. the Nigerian elections, South African elections, Ghanaian elections), or topic-specific (such as election conflict).

The primary target audience is varied and includes election practitioners, election management bodies, civil society organisations, academics, politicians, state institutions and the government. The journal's readership includes subscribers, organisations, university libraries, state institutions, civil societies, contributors, donors, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) board members, and electoral management bodies.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board consists of well-known and respected scholars from South Africa, Europe and Africa.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Journal of African Elections* was established in 2002 and publishes two editions per annum. It is available online through the Sabinet platform: http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa_epublication/eisa_jae. There were 11 634 visit and download records between the period 2015 and 2017. The journal was accessed from 59 countries, of which 47 are African countries. The journal deposits DOIs through Crossref and all references since Volume 1 Issue 1 (2002) up to Volume 18 Issue 2 (2019) are linked. There were 8 654 successful resolutions by title from January 2019 to December 2019. The journal is open access and available on <https://www.eisa.org.za/jae.php>.

The journal is pre-scheduled to appear on given dates and there have not been any significant interruptions. In the three years up to December 2017, 49 full articles, nine conference papers, one

film review and one obituary were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same period totalled 73; eight manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 34 after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 78%.

One and sometimes two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are experts in the country about which the paper is written or on the particular theme or subject of the paper. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is robust and rigorous. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in an Excel spreadsheet. Seventeen reviewers (six of whom were local) were used in the period up to December 2017.

The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is three to six months. The journal places the articles on the website and the publication is distributed through Sabinet.

The journal has had five Managing Editors, responsible for editing the JAE and engaging with contributors and reviewers. The previous Managing Editor was appointed in 2016 through an advertisement and interview process but resigned at the end of 2016. The current Managing Editor was appointed based on her performance as the Assistant Editor in 2016; the period of appointment was not specified.

The Editor of the JAE was appointed in 2002 when the first edition was published. Editorial Board members handle peer reviews and advise on editorial policies and practices. Seven Editorial Board members served for a period of 10 to 13 years. Four of the original Board members are still serving and have served for a period of 18 years. Eighteen Board members served between four and eight years, and four members served between one and three years. The Editorial Board currently consists of nine members. Members of the Editorial Board are invited to serve with no time limit. Members are appointed from both inside and outside the country. They provide specific topical expertise. The journal does not have a separate Advisory Board.

The journal has contributors' guidelines and does not have a conflict-of-interest policy. The guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Errata have never been published but will be published when necessary.

Value-added features other than book reviews have never been published in the journal. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material, other than the occasional book review, is 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of articles in the journal is generally good. The articles are mainly analytical rather than descriptive and provide broad coverage of elections in Africa. Well-regarded senior academics publish in the journal and the journal contains articles from a good spread of authors across as well as outside the region. The topics of articles are consistently in line with the journal's focus. Special editions are occasionally published. The journal has only published two book reviews. The JAE does not contain any other additional features.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Appropriate abstracts accompany all articles. A good citation practice is followed. The usage of English is good, which attests to thorough editing. The overall presentation, design and layout can also not be faulted.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal is comparable with *Electoral Studies* in the UK as well as similar journals elsewhere in the world.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

Journal of African Elections is published by EISA which is a not-for-profit company and is the owner of the publication. The regular print run is 300 per edition. Production and distribution are not outsourced. There is no advertising in the journal. The journal is produced with donor funding from the Swedish International Development Agency and Department for International Development, as well as from income received through sales by Sabinet.

Hundred and forty-five organisations receive each new edition of the journal. No article-processing or page fees are charged. The journal loads articles onto the website to manage workflow. The journal is openly accessible from the EISA website and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet. There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. The *Journal of African Elections* is copyrighted to EISA. Authors are required to cite EISA if an article is reproduced elsewhere.

The journal is accredited by DHET. There are no impact factors or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editorial Board could be bolstered by expertise in North and West Africa. The Editor could consider publishing regular book reviews.

The journal does not necessarily do double-blind reviews and sometimes relies on only one reviewer. It is recommended that, as far as possible, the journal uses two reviewers.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The publisher/Editor should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Editor should seriously consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.2.4 South African Journal of International Affairs

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Journal of International Affairs* (SAJIA), published since 1993, is a vibrant, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary forum for debate on all foreign policy issues affecting Africa in general or South Africa in particular. SAJIA publishes original and review articles. Original articles analyse significant policy issues in African international affairs, with a view to offering constructive solutions. Articles may, inter alia, deal with global/continental governance, multilateralism and political/economic integration, strengthening of democracy and political party systems in Africa, protection of human rights, international trade and investment, governance of natural resources, environmental protection, security and conflict, migration and refugees, religion and ethnicity, the roles of state and non-state actors in international affairs, and the influence of emerging powers on Africa and the world.

The *South African Journal of International Affairs* is an international affairs journal, which by definition embraces an interdisciplinary focus which includes political science, economics, development

studies, public administration, area studies (Africa), environmental affairs, health diplomacy, public administration, foreign policy analysis, and comparative government studies. *SAJIA* provides cutting-edge analysis and promotes balanced dialogue, thus contributing to effective policy making on issues critical to Africa and its engagement in a dynamic global context.

While *SAJIA*'s audience is international, and often takes on topics that would be of interest to scholars outside of South Africa or Africa, it is primarily aimed at scholars and policymakers in Africa.

The *South African Journal of International Affairs* is available online and in print to readers both locally and internationally via Taylor & Francis online sales deals, as well as traditional institutional and personal subscriptions and development initiatives. The journal is available to approximately 70 institutions and libraries in South Africa, and 350 in the rest of Africa. In addition, the journal is available to more than 1 800 institutions and libraries in the rest of the world as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals. As mentioned above, these figures also include access via development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life, especially in Africa and other developing regions.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal has a very impressive Editorial Board made up of internationally recognised scholars in the field. The Editor is also a respected figure among South African-based scholars of international relations.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *South African Journal of International Affairs* was established in 1993. As of 2018, the journal publishes four issues per year. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform: <http://www.tandfonline.com/RSAJ>. The journal had more than 65 000 page views and over 37 000 full-text articles were downloaded via the above-mentioned URL in 2017. In 2017, the journal was read in 141 countries including 38 African countries. As of 2015, the journal is scheduled to come out in March, June, September and December. Prior to that, there were three issues which appeared in April, August and December each year. There have been no significant interruptions since inception.

Over the three-year review period, 60 full articles, three review articles, 27 book reviews and one lecture were published. The number of manuscripts received totalled 156 original articles, 30 reviews and four review essays. Approximately 30% of manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 30% after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 65%.

Articles are submitted via ScholarOne, and then follow the double-blind peer-review process. Names and institutional metadata are blinded automatically by ScholarOne. Two to four peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. *SAJIA* selects peer reviewers from a database of experts that is cross referenced over many fields within international affairs and regions/countries, gleaned from research, readings, article alerts, conferences and past authors. In addition, the ScholarOne site provides suitable peer reviewers, based on the authors published by Taylor & Francis, once a paper is forwarded for peer review through the manuscript management process.

The implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. Once a revised paper is received, the Editorial Team will carefully compare the changes with the peer review comments. When an author has not sufficiently revised, the paper is returned for further revision. If the author does not satisfy the Editors, either with revisions or with a well-motivated reason why the paper should not be revised per the peer reviewer's comments, the paper is rejected. Peer reviewers do not specifically receive follow-up information, unless they request such a follow up. The anonymous nature of the process is retained through to publication. Reviewer performance, reports

and correspondence are archived on ScholarOne. These can be consulted by the editorial office at any time. In 2017, 58 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was 50%. The peer review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is six months and online is five months.

The Editor has been in office since 2009 and was appointed competitively. The appointment contract is renewed biennially. The term of office for members of the Editorial Board varies as some have been in office for six years and others for one year. The Editorial Advisory Board members are appointed for a term of three years. The Editorial Team is appointed competitively, and the Editorial Advisory Board members are appointed on the basis of invitation. The Editorial Board handle peer review when required and when suited to the work in question. They also advise on editorial policies and practices but only on a casual basis. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise and regional perspectives from around the globe.

The journal has editorial guidelines which are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The SAJIA Editorial Team will, upon being informed of any conflict-of-interest, evaluate on a case-by-case basis the extent of that conflict-of-interest and whether this precludes publication of a submitted work. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, lectures and speeches. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 95%. Book reviews and review essays are not peer reviewed beyond the Editorial Team.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles are of good quality and the journal publishes articles from a good range of authors from across South Africa and internationally. It also covers a good spread of topics in the sub-fields in international relations and a variety of articles on the rest of Africa and other parts of the developing world. In addition, the journal publishes a good number of book reviews as well as occasional review articles.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The articles are accompanied by proper abstracts, and citations are good, the publication of errata is suitable, and the overall presentation of the journal is good.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The articles serve as a stimulus for local students/young staff. The journal is comparable with leading international journals in the field. Its impact factor increased from 0.284 to 0.466 in 2017 (SCImago data).

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and published by Taylor & Francis. The regular print run is 275 copies per issue. Production and distribution are done by Taylor & Francis. Hard copy distribution in Africa is managed by NISC and by Taylor & Francis in the rest of the world. Electronic distribution is done by Taylor & Francis, which also uses subscription agencies like EBSCOhost. Libel checks and legal services are offered by Taylor & Francis. There is no advertising in the journal. The journal is supported through the core funding of the SAIIA, which

receives funding from various sources, mostly international development agencies. This is alongside a commercial agreement with Routledge of Taylor & Francis publishers.

Most subscriptions to the journal are from organisations and individual subscriptions present a negligible number. The sales and marketing focus is not to target individual subscribers but rather to focus on institutions, although individuals can subscribe to SAJIA should they wish. There is no author publishing fee imposed by SAJIA. APCs are optional, should an author wish to make their paper open access via Taylor & Francis' Open Select programme. Some discounts and waivers on APCs apply for authors based in developing countries. The journal is part of a commercial e-publication service. The journal uses an online management system, uploads articles to the web, and uses a manual system to manage the editorial workflow.

The publisher is multinational but has a South African-based office and they have not purchased the journal. SALLA retains ownership and holds copyright of the journal by way of a copyright agreement form, which all authors are asked to sign upon publication. Authors are asked to transfer to SALLA the rights of copyright to the articles they contribute. This enables Taylor & Francis, on behalf of SALLA and SAJIA, to ensure protection against infringement.

The *South African Journal of International Affairs* is indexed by African Studies Abstracts Online (ASAO); IBSS; and Scopus. Impact factors are as follows: 2016 Scopus metrics: Citescore: 0.72; SNIP (Source Normalised Impact per Paper): 0.748; SJR (SCImago Journal Rank): 0.748. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. Data such as number of views per article are available via the journal's web page. Altmetric Attention Scores are also available for the journal articles on Taylor & Francis Online. Taylor & Francis has added altmetric data to all articles published since January 2012, offering users a more complete picture of how readers engage with research articles. Taylor & Francis also monitors and reports on full-text downloads, page views and other data regarding the journal's performance. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal should encourage submissions with stronger theoretical components.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with its publishers change and it become open access.**
-

4.2.5 Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Transformation was established in order to provide an outlet for discussion and debate of forces that are shaping the South African and southern African societies, and debate the meanings of 'transformation' to understand the potential for and obstacles in the way of transformation, particularly considering – historically and currently – the class nature of these societies, and political, cultural, and ideological dynamics; and to provide a platform for serious and critical debate, from a range of perspectives and disciplines.

These aims are taken into consideration when making initial editorial decisions on the appropriateness of submissions for this journal. The journal is primarily guided by the recommendations of two anonymous reviewers for intellectual quality assessment. The review process is of variable length but might take around three months. The journal aims to focus on interdisciplinary topics.

The journal is used by many South African social scientists and southern Africanists abroad. It is distributed through Project Muse which gets the journal into many universities around the world as part of a package. The journal has international and local subscribers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board consists of a mixture of senior, well-known scholars with high national and interdisciplinary standing as well as younger scholars from a variety of disciplines. All the Board members are from South African institutions although it is dominated by academics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Transformation was established in 1986 and is published three times per annum. It is accessible on the following links: <http://transformationjournal.org.za/> and <http://muse.jhu.edu/journal/198>. The information on visits, downloads, and countries in which the journal is read was not available at the time of review. The journal is pre-scheduled to appear on given dates in April, August and December. Until about four years ago the journal did not follow a publication schedule.

During the three-year review period, 45 full articles, one review article and 53 book reviews were published. Other published papers included 18 comments and obituaries. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was about 75–80% of full articles. No data were provided for the number of manuscripts rejected after peer review. Information about the proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was not available at the time of the review.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on their recognised expertise in the field, e.g. publications. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Authors are sent comments, and invited to respond, amend, correct, or amplify appropriately, and re-submit. Re-submissions are read by reviewers, who then accept or request further re-working before publication. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information and copies of the journal in which the article was published. Reviewer performance is not formally assessed, and information is also not formally captured in a database. About 30 peer reviewers were used in one year of the review period. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was about 5%. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is the same and typically is less than a year, unless the authors take a longer time to revise.

The journal has an Editorial Collective with no overall 'Chief' and the members were not appointed competitively. Some members have been active on the Editorial Board since the journal's inception. The members of the Editorial Board handle peer review and advise on the editorial policies and practices. The members can serve on the Board for as long as they remain active and involved. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The information about the editorial guidelines and conflict-of-interest policies was not provided at the time of the review. The journal does have an errata policy in place. The journal publishes value-added features such as analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is about 85% to 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: Generally, the quality of articles, which are dominantly South African focused, is good. Marginal attention is given to neighbouring countries. Nevertheless, the articles represent a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

The journal consists of useful scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, review debates and book reviews.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Articles contain English-language abstracts and good citation practice is followed in line with international standards. Images are also used in an ethical manner. The overall presentation and design of the journal can also not be faulted.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal serves as a stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline concerned. It also provides the John Daniel Southern African Young Scholars Publishing Grant.

The journal is comparable with leading international journals in the field such as *New Left Review* in the UK or *Leviathan* in Germany as well as the *Review of African Political Economy*, *Constellation*, *Alternatives* and *Millennium*.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is independent and is published and owned by the Editorial Board. The regular print run is 90 copies per issue. Production and distribution are done in-house. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive any financial sponsorship.

There are 90 paying subscribers: 77 institutions and 13 individuals. The journal does not charge page fees or APCs. The journal uses a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is accessible freely online after two years. It is part of a commercial e-publication service via Project Muse.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but they were declined. Authors retain copyright.

The journal is indexed by IBSS and Scopus. The impact factors and altmetric indicators have not been determined. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editorial Board should be broadened to enlist scholars from the southern African region and internationally. The Editors should also consider broadening the predominantly South African focus of the journal by inviting contributions from regional and international scholars. Furthermore, the distribution of the journal is rather limited and ways to increase its distribution should be considered.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Editor should seriously consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.3 Philosophy

4.3.1 Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The underlying assumption of the *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology* (IPJP) is that phenomenology provides researchers with a unique research philosophy which allows them to explore issues central to the question of being human. It enables the richness of human experience to be fully explicated. The journal particularly seeks to support scholars who feel the need for a further dimension in their research that would enable them to explore topics whose import lies beyond the reach of measurement and calibration and in areas such as human meaning, experience, values, and truthfulness. Moreover, the journal is envisaged as providing established scholars and students with an avenue to publish written material and undertake new exploratory research in areas such as emotional sentiment, mental states, bodily experience and existence as well as social and interpersonal relationships, and the contexts in which these take place.

The journal's primary area of interest is focused on broadly based phenomenological and qualitative research approaches (theoretical and empirical) to deepening and refining the understanding of what it means to be human in every aspect that might pertain to human living, feeling and behaving in all realms whether spiritual or secular.

The *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology* aims to provide scholars in the southern hemisphere with an avenue through which they can express their scholarship. The IPJP also serves as a networking opportunity for scholars in the region as they undertake their research, just as similar avenues exist in the northern hemisphere (Europe and North America).

The primary target audience is mainly international scholars. Institutions purchase hard copies which are printed upon request. The IPJP has its own online statistics module that runs in the background, as well as real-time statistical analysis of its readership through Taylor & Francis which publishes the IPJP in conjunction with NISC.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor-in-Chief is an established scholar of recognised international standing. The Editorial Board displays a good balance of international representation, with members from Australia, South Africa, the USA, the UK, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand and Hong Kong serving the interests of the journal. Most of the Board members are scholars of recognised academic standing and experience.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology* was established in 2001. Two editions are published annually, but sometimes three editions are published when there is a special (content-focused) edition. It is accessible online on the following link: www.ipjp.org. The visit and download records were not available at the time of the review. The IPJP is an online journal and has readers from

many countries, including Western Europe, East Europe, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand as well as from the far East. African countries include South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Egypt. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in April/May and September/October. There have been no significant interruptions except for the 2003/2005 period when the *IPJP* was undergoing a major transition and internal re-organisation.

Over the three-year review period, 51 full articles and five book reviews were published. A total of 115 full article manuscripts and six book reviews were received in the three-year review period. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was 13. Five were rejected after peer review, plus one for plagiarism. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 63%.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on the area of expertise. Reviewers are scholars who have not previously co-published extensively with the author(s), and who are for this and other reasons free of bias in relation to the subject matter, the author (s) and/or their institution. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. In addition to the short written assessment that is prepared by each reviewer, there is also a checklist that must be adhered to by each author when revising their papers. Moreover, in cases where the recommendations are substantial, the revised paper is sent back to the same reviewers to obtain their views regarding the calibre of the revised and re-submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers do receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database.

A total of 29 peer reviewers was used in one year of the review period and 96% of these had non-South African addresses. The peer review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to nine months.

The Editor has been in office for a period of 15 years and was invited by the Editorial Board. The period of appointment is ongoing. The Editorial Board handles peer review and advises on editorial policies and practices. The duration in office varies for Editorial Board members as there is no set term of office. It is usually commitment and academic passion that sustain their tenure. Members of the Editorial Board were appointed competitively. Nominations are either sought or presented by the Editorial Board and a decision is taken based on academic and scholastic merit. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy for authors and reviewers. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal follows the publisher's policy on errata. When an error is drawn to the journal's attention, the published PDF is amended accordingly and re-uploaded. The value-added features include critical editorials, analytical book reviews, and sometimes include correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 97%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal has high academic standards in terms of quality of articles published. The journal is trans-regional in its focus and publishes an adequate number of articles per annum from local and international authors. The journal reflects an adequate sample of the best work done in the country. The journal also includes articles by South African authors that focus on South African issues. The journal includes useful additional scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence, and obituaries.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Abstracts are in English. The journal has good presentation, design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions, and images are used in an ethical manner. No errata were published in the period under review, but the journal has a policy for publication of errata. The citation practice is of international standard.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The articles draw from the application of phenomenology to vastly different fields (e.g. psychology, medicine, human resources), so young students/academics will be able to see phenomenology applied in a myriad of disciplines. There is evidence of younger upcoming researchers publishing in collaboration with established scholars. The journal compares very well with other international journals in its field.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The IPJP is an online journal published in association with NISC and Taylor & Francis. Regarding 'legal ownership', the IPJP is currently represented by the Editor-in-Chief. The production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship. There are also no paying subscribers.

Articles accepted for publication by the Editor-in-Chief are subject to an APC of USD650. The corresponding author will be invoiced by the publisher at the time of acceptance and publication of the article will be contingent on payment of the processing fee. The management of editorial workflow is manual and articles are uploaded to the website for publication. The IPJP can be accessed freely online. In 2013, Taylor & Francis approached the IPJP with the request to join their stable while remaining open access. Journal articles are published open access under a Creative Commons licence, which allows the free download and use of the articles with appropriate attribution of authorship. Acceptance of an article for publication is on the understanding that authors will grant in writing a licence to the publisher to publish and sell the article in print form.

The IPJP is included on Ebscohost, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, and SciELO SA. Impact factors have not been determined. Altmeter indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The IPJP has been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: There is a need to consider increasing contributions from female authors and other races, that is, those currently in the minority in this journal. Phenomenology is, after all, about human experiences.

There are no contributions from Latin America and other African countries. The Editor should consider reaching out to authors from these countries.

Special issues should be considered.

Contributions are mostly from Gauteng and the Western Cape. The representation of other South African universities is poor and should be improved.

The journal charges APCs of USD650 per article and should consider a waiver for those who cannot afford to pay.

The Board members are mostly white men. The Editor should consider diversifying the Editorial Board and include women.

The impact factor should be improved.

The focus of the journal is too broad and special issues should be introduced.

The Editorial Board should contemplate ways to profile the distinct southern hemisphere Indo-Pacific intention of the journal. In this regard, scholars and scholarship from India and China should also find a way into the journal.

The title of the journal is not appealing. The Editor should consider changing the title to attract more contributors.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.**
 - iii. **The Panel believes that the Editor should seriously reflect on the name of the journal to make it more focused.**
-

4.3.2 Philosophical Papers

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Philosophical Papers is an international, generalist journal of philosophy edited in South Africa. Articles appearing in regular issues are original, high-quality, stand-alone articles, and are written for the general professional philosopher. Submissions are welcome in any area of philosophy and undergo a process of peer review based on initial Editor screening and refereeing by (usually) two reviewers. Topic-based special issues include both invited and submitted papers selected by Guest Editors. Calls for papers for upcoming special issues can be found on the journal's website. Ideas for future special issues are welcome.

The journal publishes book reviews that are especially relevant to the philosophical community in South Africa. As an international journal edited in Africa, one of its interests, particularly in special issues, is in promoting global philosophical engagement with, and relevant to, Africa. *Philosophical Papers* is available to readers in both print and online, and through various subsidiaries. The journal is available to approximately 35 and 350 institutions and libraries in South Africa and the rest of Africa, respectively. In addition, *Philosophical Papers* is also available to 2 085 institutions and libraries as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals. These figures also include access via EBSCOhost and development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editors are reputable scholars in their respective fields. The composition of the international Advisory Board is outstanding, but members appear to play no role in advising.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Philosophical Papers was established in 1972 and publishes three issues per annum. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform: <http://www.tandfonline.com/rppa>.

The journal received 63 751 page views in 2017, and 8 188 full-text articles were downloaded in 2017. It is read in 88 countries worldwide, of which 15 are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 50 full articles and three book reviews were published. *Philosophical Papers* is the only philosophical journal with a regular re-readings feature, in which authors write on an older article, book, or book chapter that they deem to deserve renewed attention. The number of manuscripts received over the same period totalled 341 full articles. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was 127. Manuscripts rejected after peer review was 113. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 79% in 2017.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Possible reviewers are selected in the first instance from among experts globally who have published on the submission's topic. Invited reviewers who decline the invitation to review the submission often suggest other possible reviewers. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. Resubmissions of revised papers are reviewed again and do not receive priority over new submissions in the process of editorial decision-making. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2015, 114 peer reviewers were used and 112 had non-South African addresses. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to eight months, while in print it is only six months.

The Editor has been in office since April 2016 and was not appointed competitively. The appointment period is indefinite. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board do not handle peer review and do not advise on editorial policies and practices. The Board members are local and international scholars who have been appointed for 20 years.

Philosophical Papers has a detailed 'Instructions for Authors' page online which gives information on the journal's editorial policy and guidelines and is available here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rppa20&page=instructions#.VbYN8LNVhBc>. Taylor & Francis/Routledge is a member of COPE. All of the Routledge, Taylor & Francis journals, including *Philosophical Papers* abide by the COPE guidelines on publication ethics: <http://publicationethics.org/about>. The Editor was not aware of ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* at the time of the review. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines.

Value-added features such as critical topical reviews and analytical book reviews are included in the journal. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 95–98%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: *Philosophical Papers* is a journal of high repute, both locally and internationally. The journal publishes good-quality papers and is comparable to other analytic-oriented philosophy journals in the world. The journal is highly internationalised, attracting great contributors from outside the country. The journal publishes an appropriate number of articles per annum and per issue. The other significant feature is its regular "re-readings" series, which is innovative and contributes immensely to the philosophical conversation in various areas.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: English-language use is appropriate, and all articles have properly written English abstracts. Suitable publication of errata when the need arises. The journal follows good citation practice, adheres to global conventions and images are used in an ethical manner. The journal has good presentation, design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: Although the journal does not often publish works by emerging scholars, it is suitable for graduate students and young staff, if their focus is analytic philosophy, as the journal leans strongly towards this tradition. The journal is comparable to other international journals such as *The British Journal of Philosophy* or the *International Journal of Philosophy* in terms of the quality of contributions.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is completely owned by the Editorial Board, made up of the co-Editors, as well as the members of the Department of Philosophy at Rhodes University. The information on the regular print run was not available at the time of the review. One of the co-Editors oversees production, which is also handled by Taylor & Francis. The publisher advertises in the journal. Routledge provides the journal with financial assistance for hiring a Managing Editor.

No article-processing or page fees are charged. The journal uses an online management system and a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access. Authors contributing to the journal have the option to publish their paper through the gold open access route. It is part of a commercial e-publication service and part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism through AJOL.

One of the publishers is multinational but has a South African-based office and works with a local co-publisher, Unisa Press, and has not offered to purchase the journal. Articles are copyrighted to 'The Editorial Board, Philosophical Papers'. Authors are given the opportunity to choose the publishing agreement.

Philosophical Papers is currently indexed in Periodicals Index Online; Philosopher's Index; Philosophy Research Index; Scopus; and Clarivate Analytics Arts and Humanities Citation Index®. On Scopus, the SNIP in 2016 was 0.656, the SJR for 2016 was 0.305, the CiteScore was 0.31, and the CiteScore ranking was 157/452. Altmetric indicators are administered. Page views and citation counts are displayed alongside Altmetric Attention Scores (which track social media, news outlets, policy, blogs, and more) at article level on the journal homepage. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been independently peer reviewed before by Scopus and by the DHET when it was listed for accreditation.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The African location of the journal does not seem to be adequately represented in terms of the majority of articles published. Although there have been occasional special issues, the journal seems to focus more on articles from the North. This has its own advantages, but it may dissuade African scholars or those who are researching African issues, from submitting manuscripts for publication to the journal.

The journal should encourage young scholars from Africa to publish in the journal.

It might be appropriate to find ways to broaden access to the journal when it comes to the rest of Africa and much of the developing world, which cannot easily afford subscriptions to the Taylor & Francis stable.

The Editor has been in this position for 19 years. A succession plan should be put in place. The journal also needs to consider sustainability beyond the owners.

The Editorial Advisory Board has no role to play in the journal. The journal should consider changing this and assigning more responsibilities to the Board.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should be invited to join SciELO SA should the relationship with its publishers change and it become open access.
 - iii. The journal should consider the suggested recommendations in this review to further improve the journal.
-

4.3.3 Phronimon

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Phronimon publishes original scholarly contributions (articles, discussions of articles previously published, and book reviews) within the field of philosophy and the humanities. On submission of a manuscript, the author shall present a written undertaking that the manuscript has not been published and has not been presented for publication elsewhere. All articles and review articles are submitted to national and international reviewers. Effective and detailed source referencing is of paramount importance. Manuscripts are scrutinised and bibliographic references are checked, and evidence of plagiarism will result in non-publication.

The focus of the journal is interdisciplinary. The journal supports the publication and online accessibility of research to a broad and diverse target readership. The primary target audience is South African and international scholars. The journal is open access and has no subscribers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal's Editorial Board members and Editor-in-Chief are of national and international standing in the discipline of philosophy. The Editorial Team are recognised scholars in philosophy drawn from mainly universities in South Africa and international Greek scholars representing the concerns of the Greek philosophy focus in the journal.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Phronimon was established in 1996. There have been no significant interruptions. As of 2017, *Phronimon* uses the rolling publication model. Publications appear in a rolling edition throughout the year, after successful peer review. The journal is accessible online through the SciELO SA platform: http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_serial&pid=1561-4018&lng=en&nrm=iso and on the Unisa Press Journals platform: <https://www.upjournals.co.za/index.php/Phronimon/index>. Visit and download records are available on the SciELO SA platform: <http://www.scielo.org.za/statjournal.php?lang=en&issn=1561-4018&collection=sza>. The Unisa Press Journals platform shows total abstract views of 1 573 and 364 downloads for the period from January 2018 to April 2018. The journal is read in 51 countries.

During the three-year review period, 38 full articles were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same review period was 62; 22 manuscripts were rejected without peer review and two were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 17% in 2017.

Two to three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected from a database of reviewers that is regularly updated. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Article improvement is overseen by the Editor. Copy and Language Editors are also involved in the finalisation of the article in consultation with the author. Peer reviewers sometimes

receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2017, 26 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was unknown at the time of the review. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication was 162 days in 2017.

The Editor has been in office for five years and the Coordinating Editor for two years. A selection process was followed when appointing the Editor. The Editor was appointed from 2011 to 2013, while the Coordinating Editor was appointed from 2014 to date. Members of the Editorial Board have been appointed competitively for a period of five years. They do not handle peer review, but they do provide advice on editorial policies and practices. They have been appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines are available via this link: <https://www.upjournals.co.za/index.php/Phronimon/about> and are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is no conflict-of-interest policy and errata are published whenever deemed necessary.

The journal publishes 'News and Views' analyses of articles being published as a value-added feature. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes articles of good quality. The issues addressed in the journal are diverse, regional, global, and interdisciplinary. The number of articles published per year is adequate. The journal has been able to attract the right mix of local and international submissions and publications.

The articles are an adequate sample of the best work done in the country in the discipline, although there is room for improvement. The journal is not doing well with useful additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, and book reviews. It tends to privilege full-length articles even though it states that it covers all these areas in its scope.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles have English-language abstracts. There is suitable publication of errata where deemed applicable. The journal uses good citation practice according to international and recognised manuals of style. The journal has good presentation, design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions and images are used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: This is a good journal for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline of philosophy. The journal is comparable to other international journals in the field.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by Unisa Press housed in the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology. The journal is not printed, and production and distribution are not outsourced. There is no advertising in the journal. Unisa provides financial support.

There are no paying subscribers as the journal is online-only and open access. If a paper is accepted for publication, the author is required to pay an APC of R5 000 to cover publication costs. The journal

currently uploads articles to the web to manage the editorial workflow. It is freely accessible online and is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (SciELO SA).

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright remains with the author(s) of the article. All articles published in *Phronimon* can be re-used under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence.

Impact factors and altmetric indicators have not been determined. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been peer reviewed before by ASSAf.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Editor stated in the questionnaire that details of the geographical origin of their reviewers was not available. The Editor should consider developing a database of reviewers.

The Editorial Board is dominated by members from Pretoria universities. The Editorial Board should be broadened to include scholars from other African universities.

The journal should consider promoting itself to be more visible. A suggestion would be to partner with conferences.

Additional features such as editorials, topical reviews, and book reviews should be encouraged.

The journal should consider applying for inclusion on international indices.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Editor should seriously consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.3.4 South African Journal of Philosophy

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Journal of Philosophy* (SAJP) is the official publication of the Philosophical Society of South Africa (PSSA). The aim of the journal is to publish original scholarly contributions in all areas of philosophy at an international standard. Contributions undergo double-blind peer review and include articles, discussions of articles previously published, review articles, and book reviews. The journal aims to focus on specific disciplines.

There has been a significant increase in the contribution of scholars in the field of African philosophy. The wide scope of the SAJP makes it the African continent's central vehicle for the publication of general philosophical work. The target audience remains predominantly local and international, and consists of students, lecturers, and scholars of philosophy.

The journal is available to approximately 988 institutions in Africa and the rest of the world. In addition, the journal is available to 2 440 institutions and libraries as part of the Taylor & Francis sales/subscription deals. The journal further forms part of the Taylor & Francis access initiatives such as EBSCOhost and development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board is a well-balanced group of highly acclaimed international and national academics within the field of philosophy. The Editor-in-Chief is a Nigerian national with

Canadian citizenship, the first black Editor-in-Chief in the history of the journal that represents the philosophy academy in South Africa. Conversely, however, there is not a single black South African on the Editorial Board.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *South African Journal of Philosophy* was established in 1981 and is published quarterly. The journal is accessible online through the Taylor & Francis platform: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rsph20/current>. The journal received 59 646 page views and 10 636 full-text downloads in 2017. It is read in 88 countries including 15 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, September, and December and they appear regularly on the scheduled dates. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 136 full articles, two review articles, and three book reviews were published. Other published papers that were not peer reviewed include one introduction and one corrigendum. The number of manuscripts received through the online submission system between 2015 and 2017 was 534 full articles, 399 regular articles, and 135 special issue articles. Four full article manuscripts were rejected without peer review. Manuscripts rejected after peer review include 105 full articles, two review articles, and 66 special issue articles. About 69% of all authors who provided addresses between 2015 and 2017 had a non-South African address.

Peer reviewers are selected by a team consisting of the Editor-in-Chief and three Associate Editors, selected based on their expertise in different fields of philosophy. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Two expert reviewers are sought for each submission. Ideally, one South African reviewer and one international reviewer is sought. Although it is time consuming, suitable reviewers are invited until two willing reviewers are found. Editors make an informed decision concerning revision based on reviews, which they also have the opportunity to evaluate. Careful, detailed records of all transactions take place via the Editorial Manager system. Authors are given full access to the reviewer's comments, although not to confidential comments to the Editors. The Editor-in-Chief takes final responsibility for the final decision on all submissions and has full access to all submission data and reviews for all submissions. Relations between Editors are collegial, and submissions are discussed with the Editor-in-Chief if necessary. The implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information captured in a database. In 2017, 335 peer reviewers were used. Of the total, 320 provided their address, and 230 (68.66%) were based outside South Africa. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is six to twelve months.

The Editor-in-Chief has been in office for two and a half years and was appointed competitively for a term of four years. Peer review is handled by the Editor-in-Chief and an Associate Editor. The Editorial Board members function in an advisory capacity and provide advice on editorial policies and practices.

Members of the Editorial Board were appointed by invitation and by tradition. Those who have served as Editor-in-Chief are invited to serve on the Board subsequent to their appointment. The Editor(s) are responsible for nominating scholars for membership of the Editorial Board, and the appointment of new members of the Editorial Board must be ratified by the Annual General Meeting of the PSSA. Membership of the Editorial Board may be rescinded if the member resigns, or on the recommendation of the Editor(s) where this recommendation is ratified by the Annual General Meeting of the PSSA. The Editorial Board members remain in office permanently. The Editorial Advisory Board and team of Associate Editors is constituted every four years with the appointment of a new Editor-in-Chief.

The journal has an editorial policy which forms part of the Constitution of PSSA. The guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*.

There is no conflict-of-interest policy in place. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines.

The journal publishes value-added features such as analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 92%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: This is a good-quality journal with high standing. The journal publishes good-quality articles covering a broad range of issues across the discipline of philosophy. The journal publishes a good number of articles per year. The contributions are from this continent and internationally and a good balance is maintained between local and international authors. However, there is a need for useful additional scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, and scholarly correspondence. There were only two book reviews published in three years.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The English used is of a high standard and all abstracts appear in English. There is suitable publication of errata and good citation practice is followed. The journal presentation, design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions are good, and images are used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal coverage in terms of the articles published is able to support the teaching and learning of young academics, and the articles do create a sound basis for cutting-edge debates that stimulate the work of young scholars.

The journal compares well with other local and international journals in philosophy. It publishes articles from all schools and traditions of the discipline and covers all areas of philosophy.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by PSSA and is co-published by NISC and Taylor & Francis. The regular print run of 134 copies per issue is that which takes place in South Africa and is handled by NISC. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal is published and distributed by Taylor & Francis and NISC. There is no advertising in the journal. There is no financial sponsorship. Members of the PSSA are given the print edition as part of their membership fees.

The journal charges a page fee of R147 (excluding VAT) per published page which applies only to authors at South African universities whose articles attract publication subsidy. Upon receipt of a page charge invoice, authors who do not receive subsidies from their institutions or do not have access to publication funding will be eligible to apply for a waiver to the publisher. The use of non-essential colour is charged at R900 per page in Africa and USD150 in the rest of the world. Rates exclude VAT for South African authors and a modest banking charge for non-South African authors. The journal uses an online management system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Subject to the extent that works within the journal are reproduced under licence or other consent, copyright in the title and content of the journal is vested in the PSSA. The PSSA shall use its best endeavours to assist the publisher to obtain from the authors of all contributions, a written assignment (which it shall supply to the publisher together with the relevant typescript or illustration) of the entire copyright and all other

rights in all languages for the full period of copyright throughout the world in respect of each such contribution or an exclusive licence in the form approved by the publisher in the work to the PSSA, in all forms, for the full term of copyright, including any extensions. The copyright notice to be displayed on the website for the journal and to be printed in each issue of the journal reads ©Philosophical Society of Southern Africa (year of publication). Copyright in the typographical arrangement of the journal and each issue and volume thereof shall vest in the publisher. Authors sign a licensing agreement with Taylor & Francis as part of the online submission process.

The *South African Journal of Philosophy* is currently abstracted and indexed by BioSciences Information Service; Current Contents/Arts & Humanities; IBZ & IBR; Philosopher's Index (the pre-eminent database for publications within the field); Repertoire bibliographique de la Philosophie; Revue Philosophique de Louvain; Tijdschrift Voor Filosofie bibliografisch reperiorium; and Clarivate Analytic's Arts & Humanities Citation Index. There are no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. Altmetric Attention Scores for each article are displayed on the journal's webpage next to each article. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has never been independently reviewed before.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal should adopt a competitive process in appointing and assessing the academic standing and qualifications of its Editor-in-Chief.

As the journal is an organ of the PSSA, its peer-review practice is susceptible to the negative effects of a closed pool of reviewers who function within a relatively small academic community of philosophy lecturers and researchers. Efforts at broadening this network need to be demonstrated, catalogued, and reported.

The journal should guard against being used as a platform to settle internal squabbles as members respond to each other's articles in protracted and personalised tones.

The number of book reviews should be increased.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with its publishers change and it become open access.**
 - iii. **The Panel recommends that the journal should take seriously the question of the diversity of its Editorial Board.**
 - iv. **In addition, the Panel believes that the journal should broaden its network of reviewers.**
-

4.4 Politics

4.4.1 Politeia: South African Journal for Political Science and Public Administration

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The mission of this interdepartmental publication is the promotion of the study of, and interest in, political science and public administration on the African continent and in the international community at large. *Politeia* encompasses a wide spectrum of views and issues relating to public administration and management, political science/studies, international politics/relations, strategic studies, and African politics.

Politeia offers the South African research community up-to date scholarship on political developments primarily in Africa. The journal strives to build on its niche area of African politics, especially its theorisation, and hence the journal is becoming an outlet for alternative theories such as decoloniality. The journal also continues to produce special issues on selected areas of interest such as the issue which focused on the presidency in Africa. The journal aims to serve the African continent and the international community at large.

In 2018, the journal had 70 institutional subscribers and 17 individual subscribers. Of the 70 institutions, 47 were higher education institutions, and the rest were central government departments, provincial government departments, local government departments, parastatals, and research institutes.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor-in-Chief has standing. The editor's questionnaire indicates that the journal has an Editorial Board and an Editorial Advisory Board, but this information could not be accessed via the official website. It would be prudent for the journal to display the Board/s openly and transparently on its website so that the academic audience can gauge the strength of the journal, and its international reputation and stature.

However, from a deeper search and the editor's questionnaire, the Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board appear to have poor representation of scholars affiliated to South African universities. The journal should consider a more representative Editorial Team comprising academics of national and international standing from the discipline.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Politeia was established in 1982. Three issues are published per annum. It is accessible online on the following links: <https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/Politeia/index> and <http://www.journals.co.za/content/journal/polit>. Statistics for the *Politeia* website are only available from January 2018. Between 1 January and 23 March 2018 there were 1 166 abstract views and 47 downloads. Statistics on Sabinet for 1 January to 1 December 2017 showed abstract views of 13 988 and full-text downloads of 4 206. There were 511 users who accessed the website from 52 countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in April, July and November. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the review period (2015 to 2017), 27 full articles, three book reviews, and three editorials were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same period was not provided. Twelve manuscripts were rejected without peer review and six after peer review. The number of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address in 2017 was two.

Between two and four peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected on the basis of their competence in the subject matter of the article they are requested to review. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The reviewer critique is assessed by

the Editor as to its relevance. If the Editor comes to a determination that it is below standard, i.e. it adds no value in advising the author, it is not passed on to the author. If the critique is acceptable it is passed on to the author to make the required changes. The author is also accorded the latitude to respond to specific comments of the review as to whether or not they agree with the points raised. In cases where the authors object to review comments, they must submit plausible reasons for objecting. The responses from both reviewers are then presented to a meeting of the editorial committee. The committee then decides whether to accept or reject the article based on the reviewer's comments and on the author's response and discusses whether the article is suitable to be published in the journal.

Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information, but this is under consideration. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2017, 51 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was unknown at the time of the review. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication for the year 2017 was 85 days. It took on average 83 days to review a manuscript before deciding on publication.

The Editor has been in office for two years and was appointed competitively for a period of three years. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. The Editorial Board was appointed competitively for two years and the Advisory Board for three years. Appointments were made from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is no conflict-of-interest policy in place. Errata are published but the publisher does not have a specific policy – an erratum is published when there are omissions or misrepresentation relating to content.

Critical editorials and analytical book reviews are published as value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is more than 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal's website indicates that it is produced three times a year. However, it is evident that the mandate of the journal in publishing three issues per year has not been met as it has produced two issues a year since 2015. In terms of the number of articles published per annum the average is nine articles per year with a book review or two included. The Panel agrees with the reviewers that anything less than six research papers per issue (12 per year) is an underachievement. The journal is thus underachieving consistently in that regard.

In terms of local and regional focus, the Panel is of the view that much of the journal's focus revolves around South African and Nigerian issues. While this may give a semblance of an African regional focus, the inclusion of Nigerian topics seems to be insufficient in covering a wider range of African issues, as pointedly observed by one of the reviewers. Relatedly, given the focus of the journal issues in the years under review, the authorships for the published articles were exclusively South African and Nigerian. Most (if not all the authors) also appear to be based in South Africa. The publications therefore do not reflect the range of authors on the subject areas covered by the journal across Africa and beyond the continent. The journal has a healthy mix of other useful scholarly features such as book reviews and editorial commentaries, although inconsistent.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are clear editorial guidelines and contact details for the Editors. All articles are in English and are introduced by English-language abstracts.

No errata were observed in the copies under review. The questionnaire indicates that an 'errata policy' exists, but this is not explained on the website. The citation practice is sound. The presentation, layout, style, and copy-editing are all good. Ethical standards were maintained in the reviewed volumes.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: While the journal does not have a specific provision for young and emerging scholars to publish their work, it is still a very good journal for young and aspiring scholars/researchers of public administration and management, political science/studies, international politics/relations, strategic studies, and African politics to gain experience and get published. A review of the authors in the three-year review period shows a good mix of established and emerging/young researchers. However, it is suggested that a postgraduate forum (which could include master's and doctoral students publishing from their dissertations/theses) be added to the journal to stimulate an interest in young academics to publish in the journal.

This journal focuses on South African and African continental concerns. The journal can be ranked with reputable international journals on the basis that scholars who publish in other similar international journals also publish in *Politeia*.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The owner and publisher of the journal is Unisa. Only 40 copies are printed. Production and distribution are not outsourced. There is no advertising in the journal and Unisa carries most of the costs, especially overhead costs.

The number of paying subscribers includes 53 South African institutions and 17 international institutions. In 2018, there were 70 institutions subscribing via Sabinet. There are another two institutions and 17 individuals subscribing via Unisa Press. The journal does not charge APCs. The journal started using OJS in 2016 to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access; a subscription is required. It is part of commercial e-publication services through Sabinet, Unisa Press journals, and Ebscohost.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is vested in Unisa Press. However, as long as the author does not use their article in ways that would directly conflict with the publisher's business interests, the author retains the right to use of their own article (provided the author acknowledges the published original in standard bibliographic citation form). The authors are asked to sign a licence to publish form.

The journal is working on submitting to various indices. There are no impact factors and altmetric indicators are administered by Sabinet and Unisa Press. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: There is a need to facilitate the online accessibility of the journal with respect to certain non-content information. Basic and marketing information such as editorials, Editorial Board membership, and abstracts should be openly accessible online. Also, an interactive website that facilitates access to all back copies of the journal would be helpful.

The geographic coverage aspect needs improvement in line with the stipulated objectives of the journal. Currently, authorship is dominated by scholars based in South African and Nigerian universities. Expanding the geographic coverage can help with the noted challenge of finding competent and dedicated peer reviewers. In line with the interest of making *Politeia* a truly international journal, deliberate efforts should be made to attract wider readership and content.

The content focus across the board, but especially beyond South Africa, should be better aligned to the stated objectives of the journal.

There is a need to further strengthen grammar and syntax issues. This appears to have improved a bit with more recent publications.

There should be more focus on improving content and consistency with respect to other scholarly features in the journal such as editorials and book reviews.

The journal should endeavour to increase the number of articles published per year. Also, given the journal's mandate, some consistency in the number of issues published per year would be helpful. Quite aside from allowing it to broaden geographic content and reach, it would also simultaneously enable the journal to continue addressing issues within its principal catchment area(s).

The journal should consider a more representative Editorial Team comprising academics of national and international standing from the discipline and across different universities. There is an impression that this journal is a Unisa in-house production with too many Editors belonging to the same institution.

It is also recommended that feedback is provided in writing to peer-reviewers on the outcome of the editorial decision.

The Editor is appointed for a period of three years. There must be a succession plan in place so as to have a seamless publication stream.

It is also advised to make provisions for young scholars to publish in the journal via a postgraduate forum.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
 - iii. **The Panel believes that although the editor's questionnaire indicates that the journal has an Editorial Board and an Editorial Advisory Board, this information could not be accessed via the official website. It would be prudent for the journal to display the Board openly and transparently on its website so that the academic audience can gauge the strength of the journal, as well as its international reputation and stature.**
 - iv. **In addition, the panel recommends that a conflict-of-interest policy must be drawn up. The Editor has published in this journal, and it must be clear what mechanisms are in place to prevent a conflict-of-interest.**
-

4.4.2 Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Politikon focuses primarily on South African politics and international relations, but not exclusively so. The journal is committed to publishing quality scholarship on southern African politics, African politics, and global political issues, both from political economy and socio-political perspectives. The journal particularly welcomes submissions on topical socio-political and political economy issues in the Global South.

The scope of the journal is interdisciplinary in nature as it focuses on political sciences, international relations, security studies, political sociology, and policy studies in political economy and socio-political scholarship. *Politikon* is a quality journal that publishes cutting-edge research on South African, African, and Global South emergent socio-political and political economy issues. To this effect, the journal serves the broader research community as an outlet for new research as well as a vehicle to develop special themed issues on important emergent research themes within South African, African, and Global South politics.

The journal targets local and international scholars and researchers in higher education institutions and research institutes. The journal also targets think tanks and other bodies that inform policy decision-making.

Politikon is available to readers in both print and online and through various subsidiaries. It is available to approximately 30 institutions and libraries in South Africa and approximately 330 institutions and libraries in the rest of Africa. *Politikon* is also available to nearly 1 900 institutions and libraries outside Africa as part of the Taylor & Francis sales deals. More than 8 000 additional institutions worldwide also have access to *Politikon* via development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board is composed of a number of highly regarded national and international academics in the field who have excellent publication records.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Politikon was established in 1974 and publishes three issues per annum. It is available on the Taylor & Francis platform: <http://www.tandfonline.com/cpsa>. The journal received more than 76 000 page views and 30 471 full-text downloads in 2014. It was read in 116 countries in 2017. This includes countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, northern, southern and central Europe, as well as South Asia. It was also read in 29 different African countries in 2017, including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Algeria.

Politikon operates with a pre-planned production schedule and is published in April, August, and December. There have been no significant interruptions in the journal's production schedule since its inception. However, the Editorial Team did delay the publication of one issue from April to June 2015 to create a new platform for scholarly debate as a new feature to the journal.

During the three-year review period, 61 full articles, four letters, three review articles, and 23 book reviews were published. The number of manuscripts received between 2013 and 2015 was 67 original articles and 24 book reviews. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 13 papers were rejected as a pre-peer review decision due to the manuscript either falling outside the scope of the journal or needing further refinement and development before peer review. In total, 15 papers were rejected after the peer review process over the same period. The ratio of South African and international authors for 2015 to 2017 was 33 South African authors and 18 international authors.

Politikon's editorial policy requires two peer reviewers per submitted manuscript. All manuscripts are anonymised to protect the integrity of the peer-review process. The selection criteria for peer reviewers are very rigorous. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise and academic portfolio. The journal also uses national and international peer reviewers to ensure a rigorous peer-review process. The peer-review process is double blind. Authors must submit an anonymised copy of the manuscript and all identifying aspects (including names and institutions) have to be removed. If an author fails to do this, the submission is returned as a "technical check failure" for the author to

address. Reviewers' feedback is also sent completely anonymised. Authors do not know who the peer reviewers are.

In order to ensure that authors comply with the recommendations and critique of reviewers, *Politikon* implements the following process: All authors are required to send two copies of the revised manuscript; one copy with the track changes function enabled to demonstrate how authors have addressed the reviewers' feedback and one clean copy. In cases where authors do not agree with the reviewers' feedback, a detailed response is required, and the Editorial Team will scrutinise the revised manuscript in line with the reviewers' feedback and authors' responses. In some cases where the reviewers have stated the manuscript is of great value to the scholarly community but needs major revision, the author is notified that the manuscript will be sent back to the reviewer for a final check before an editorial decision is taken.

Politikon uses Editorial Manager as an online submission's platform. This system allows the Editorial Team to send the reviewers follow-up information on the outcome of the review process for manuscripts that they reviewed. *Politikon* rates the performance of peer reviewers based on the nature of the report (comprehensive or not) as well as turnaround time of the report. In 2017, a total of 49 peer reviewers were used. A total of 33 reviewers had South African email addresses and 16 reviewers had international email addresses from countries including Canada, the USA, the UK, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Australia, New Zealand, and Sweden, among others. All peer-review reports are kept on file in the *Politikon* editorial archive. The average time between manuscript receipt and print publication is approximately eight months as issues fill up very quickly due to the number of quality submissions the journal receives. The average time between manuscript submission and online publication is approximately six months. The peer-review process takes on average two months, with a further two months for authors to deal with revisions and recommendations from peer reviewers.

The term of office for the Editor started on 1 January 2015. The process of appointment was competitive in nature. The position was advertised and the selection committee, which is made up of members of the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS), compiled the shortlist. Shortlisted candidates were invited to complete a mock editorial assignment. The period of appointment was three years with a provision in the SAAPS constitution to continue for an additional year to mentor and train the incoming Editor.

When a manuscript falls in the area of expertise of any of the Editorial Board members, they are asked to act as peer reviewers if they are available. In cases where an Editorial Board member acts as a peer reviewer, the second reviewer is sourced independently. In cases where there is no particular expertise on the Editorial Board, two independent peer reviewers are sourced. The Editorial Board members are welcome to advise on editorial policies and practices. These are considered at the Council meetings of the SAAPS. The current Editorial Board has been in office for three years. Some members of the Editorial Board are asked to join the Board due to their academic profile and area of expertise. The journal also issues a call for expressions of interest to serve on the Editorial Board and the journal strikes a balance between national and international members of the Editorial Board.

Politikon has editorial guidelines which are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines. An erratum will be used if an important error has been introduced by Taylor & Francis during the production of the journal article (one that affects the publication record, the scientific integrity of the paper, or the reputation of the authors or the journal), including errors of omission such as failure to make factual proof corrections requested by authors within the deadline provided by the journal and within the journal's policy. All errata are linked to the version of the scholarly record of the article which they correct. The journal does not publish errata for typing errors except where an apparently simple error is significant (for example, an incorrect unit). A significant error in a figure or table is corrected by publication of a new corrected figure or table as an erratum. The figure or table is republished only if the Editor considers it necessary.

The following value-added features are included in the journal: critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, and correspondence on published articles. Approximately 95% of an issue represents peer-reviewed original material. Approximately 70% of the journal represents peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is generally good, and they present an excellent sample of the diversity of research in the field. Most of the work published is by local or regional authors and concentrates on the southern African region and ensures a clear focus on the region's issues and problems. In addition to articles focusing on empirical research, the journal also publishes useful editorials, book reviews, topical reviews, and occasional special issues.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All the articles published include an abstract that provides key points of the study. A suitable publication of errata is also adhered to.

The journal maintains a good citation practice that is consistent with its submission guidelines outlined on its submission page. The presentation is good and adequate credit is given where images are used.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal serves as a credible stimulus for scholars and students in the field of political science and international relations. It compares favourably with other reputable journals in the field of political science published in the USA and UK.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

Politikon is owned by the SAAPS and published by Taylor & Francis (Routledge). The regular print run is 500 copies per issue. The production of the journal is managed by the publisher, Taylor & Francis, in the UK. Hard copy and electronic distribution are undertaken by Taylor & Francis, which also uses subscription agencies like EBSCOhost. International print distribution is managed by Taylor & Francis. *Politikon* does not currently carry any form of advertising, but there is the option for both paid (e.g. from university presses) and unpaid (e.g. exchange adverts) advertising. There is no financial sponsorship.

No article-processing or page fees are charged. *Politikon* uses an online management system, uploads articles to the website, and a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. Access is not freely available; however, *Politikon* is included in the Open Select programme, meaning that following acceptance of their article, authors can pay an APC to have their article made perpetually open access. *Politikon* is part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service, where users can either subscribe directly to a journal or subscribe to a subject library collection in which the journal is included. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries via initiatives such as STAR, INASP, and Research4Life.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. However, the publisher is multinational and has a South African-based office. SAAPS retains the ownership of the journal and holds full copyright in *Politikon*, and Taylor & Francis publishes the journal. By way of a copyright agreement form (Journal Author Publication Agreement), which all authors are asked to sign upon publication, authors are asked to transfer to SAAPS the rights of copyright in the articles they contribute. This enables Taylor & Francis, on behalf of SAAPS, to ensure protection against infringement.

Politikon is indexed in Advance Bibliography of Contents, Political Science & Government; African Studies Abstracts Online; GEOBASE; Index to South African Periodicals; IBSS; International Development Abstracts; International Political Science Abstracts; Social Sciences Citation Index; Sociological Abstracts; America: History and Life; Historical Abstracts; PAIS International; Worldwide Political Science Abstracts; Google Scholar; Scopus; and WoS Citation Index.

The 2016 impact factor for *Politikon* was 0.543. The journal is included in the political science category. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis, which supplies the journal with the number of downloads, citations, and Altmetric Attention Scores to monitor the 'performance' of the journal. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal went through a review and selection process for inclusion in WoS Citation Index.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal should seek ways to increase readership in South Africa and Africa and should also consider soliciting more articles from scholars beyond South African universities.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should its relationship with publishers change and it become open access.**
-

4.4.3 Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Theoria is an engaging, multidisciplinary and peer-reviewed journal of social and political theory. Published every quarter, its purpose is to address, through academic debate, the many challenges posed by the major social, political and economic forces that shape the contemporary world, especially but not only with regard to Africa, the Global South, and their relations with the Global North. *Theoria* wishes to promote discussion of and writing about social and political theory in any form and from any time and place, regardless of ideological perspective and methodological approach. It is particularly interested in how modern systems of power, and traditional and emergent forms of politics, bear on the central questions in social and political theory, such as democracy, freedom, equality, justice, race, gender, and identity. The journal publishes full and original articles, review essays, and book reviews.

It also includes an interdisciplinary focus. Besides social and political theory, the journal also publishes articles in philosophy, history, and literature. It is the leading social and political theory journal in South Africa, publishing at the highest international standards. In other words, the South African research community is not treated any differently to the many submissions the journal receives from across the globe, although there is a drive to enhance and enable work from the Global South more generally.

Local as well as international scholars are the journal's target audience. Most of the subscribers are international, but North American subscribers are the largest direct circulation readership. The journal places an emphasis on encouraging authors and editorial consultants to reach out to their libraries to include the journal in their catalogues. The journal has institutional subscribers, as it is archived on JSTOR and included in indices such as EBSCOhost, ProQuest, the ESCI (WoS), the European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS) as well as the IBSS.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor is an internationally respected, NRF A-rated scholar and recognised globally for his scholarship. The other members of the Editorial Board are well-established South African scholars from a variety of institutions, most of them also with international reputations. The Editorial Advisory Board consists of a wide variety of eminent scholars in the field. The three issues of the journal reviewed are an apt demonstration of the professionalism and deep understanding of social and political theory, especially as they impinge on new and recent developments of practical philosophy nationally and internationally.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Theoria was established in 1947 and publishes four issues per annum. It is accessible online through the following links: <https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/theoria/theoria-overview.xml> and <http://ojs.berghahnjournals.com/index.php/theoria/index>. *Theoria* had the following 2017 usage via Berghahn Journals Online: over 2 300 Table of Contents views, nearly 13 000 abstract views, and nearly 2 500 PDF views. There were 10 countries represented in the journal's direct subscription base for 2017 with many more accessing via third-party licence arrangements. Berghahn had three direct subscriptions from African institutional libraries in 2017. Via licence arrangements, including JSTOR's African Access Initiative and the Developing Nations Access Initiative, there was a much wider African readership. The journal was accepted by JSTOR in 2011, with the entire backfile digitised back to the first volume published in 1947: <http://www.jstor.org/journal/theoria>.

Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on given dates and appear regularly on the scheduled dates. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 56 full articles, four review articles, seven book reviews, and an introduction to a special issue (separate from editorial) were published. The number of manuscripts received totalled 111 articles and 11 book reviews/review essays; 28 full articles were rejected without peer review and 22 after peer review. A total of 31 peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Approximately ten peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript in order to secure a minimum of two or three reports per paper. Peer reviewers are selected through the Editorial Board's suggestions. The manuscripts are first circulated to all Editors. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. The implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement is extremely rigorous. Reviewer feedback is central to the journal's editorial process and reviewers are very carefully selected. The reviewers are all experts in the fields in which papers are written and have been frequently thanked by authors for excellent and helpful peer review responses. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information upon request. Giving reviewers feedback and access to other reviewers' reports (anonymised) on every paper is planned for 2018. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. On the previous OJS platform, the Editors were able to rate reviewers. However, since the journal upgraded to OJS3 in 2016, this feature has been removed. The journal is still working on a more formal system for assessing reviewer performance. In 2016, 53 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was 81%. The peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is seven to nine months.

The Editor has been in office since 2009 and was appointed competitively. The period of appointment was not specified. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review but infrequently. They also provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The members of the Editorial Board have been in office between one and ten years. Their term of office varies between from a year to 30 years.

Editorial board members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise. The Editorial Board reviews all submissions, suggests peer reviewers, and then makes consensus-based decisions on publication and revision depending on the peer-review reports.

The journal has editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy. It also has a formal Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement, available here: https://journals.berghahnbooks.com/uploads/th/theoria_ethics_statement.pdf. The journal believes that the guidelines comply with ASSAf's Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review as fully as possible, and the journal's practices reflect internationally accepted best practices for academic publishing. The errata policy is contained within the Ethics Statement. The Editors and publishers do not take responsibility, formally, for misleading or inaccurate information. However, in certain cases, should errata be required, the journal would undertake to note these either online or in print.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials (only for special issues), interviews with leading scholars, and analytical book reviews. Correspondence on published articles is occasionally published. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is close to 100% in most issues. Other than book reviews, which make up around 10% of published issues where they appear, and editorials, which make up 5% of a special issue, all pages are peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles appears to be exceptional, with the articles speaking to the key issues or debates raging in political and social philosophy. The authors generally are in good standing, nationally/regionally as well as internationally. The journal publishes an adequate number of articles per annum, mostly in keeping with other similar journals nationally and internationally.

In terms of focus, the journal does indeed sample some of the best work done locally, regionally, and internationally, including viewpoints on global issues from the South. The same may be said about the content which shows a strong emphasis on decolonisation, colonies, empire-building, and Pan-Africanism in the various issues reviewed. However, it will help to have more special issues on African social and political theory. Authors reflect local, regional, and international representations even though a number of local authors seem to be somewhat overrepresented.

Apart from research articles, the journal contains book reviews, which are useful and of a high standard.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are in English and are introduced by proper English language abstracts. There is suitable publication of errata, and a consistent citation practice in the journal that is in line with international standards.

Overall, the journal has a good presentation, design, layout, style, and copy-editing interventions and images are used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal is open for submission of papers by any scholar (emerging and established), as was gleaned from the issues reviewed. This indicates its suitability as a general platform and ongoing stimulus for local graduate students/early career scholars in the discipline concerned. However, this needs to be improved because the social and political theory is now rebounding, and this process will not be complete without the contributions of local graduate students and emerging academics in the discipline. Hence, special issues for these groups can help in this regard.

Theoria is comparable in terms of focus and content to leading international journals such as Politics and Society (Sage Publications), Political Theory (Sage Publications), Journal of Social and Political Thought (York University), and Contemporary Political Theory (Palgrave) among others.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The Association for Political Thought in Africa is the legal title owner. The journal is published by Berghahn Journals (part of Berghahn Books) in New York City. There is no regular print run, and production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal carries unpaid advertising through calls for papers within the field, and notifications of other related journals. Berghahn partners with other publishers to promote *Theoria* by carrying out advertising exchanges in similar journals. The journal does not receive any financial sponsorship.

There are no paying subscribers. The journal does not charge APCs. The journal uses an online management system, uploads articles to the website, and a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Authors sign a copyright agreement with the publisher.

Theoria is indexed by Academic Search Complete/Main/Premier (Ebscohost); Academic Source Complete/Premier (Ebscohost); Advanced Placement Source (Ebscohost); British Humanities Index (ProQuest); Dietrich's Index Philosophicus (De Gruyter); ESCI (WoS); Electronic Current Contents of Periodicals on the Middle East (Dayan Center); European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS); Geobase (Elsevier); Humanities International Complete (Ebscohost); Index to Jewish Periodicals; Index to South African Periodicals (National Library of South Africa); International Bibliography of Social Sciences (IBSS); Left Index (Ebscohost); MLA Directory of Periodicals; MLA International Bibliography; Periodicals Acquisitions (ProQuest); Periodicals Index Online (ProQuest); the Philosopher's Information Center; Political Science Complete (Ebscohost); Social Sciences Abstracts (Ebscohost); Social Sciences Index (Ebscohost); Social Services Abstracts (ProQuest); SocINDEX (Ebscohost); Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest); United States Political Science Documents (ProQuest); and Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (ProQuest).

Google Scholar has assigned *Theoria* an h-Index of 6 and an h-median of 7. *Theoria* is currently in the Emerging Sources Citation Index of WoS, and as such does not have a WoS impact factor as yet. There are altmetric indicators. The journal uses Google Analytics and social media to monitor performance but does not use the Altmetric service which is managed by the publisher. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was reviewed for inclusion in the Emerging Sources Citation Index.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: One of the main strengths and appeals of the discipline of political theory is the range that it covers, both methodologically and topically. Although the journal already reflects this range to an extent, more can be done. Authors may reside in non-traditional departments, such as in language departments and psychology departments. The scope of social and political theory is broad enough to include them and their methodologies in this journal.

The South African political landscape is dominated by practical philosophical imperatives due to the number of problems faced by the polity – poverty, inequality, unemployment, racism, land, femicide, etc. This can make it seem as though scholarly theorising is a luxury we cannot afford at this time. A suggestion in this regard would be to take these topical issues and devote a special issue of the journal to each – say one on 'land and identity', one on 'race and belonging', etc. – and to explore each topic in terms of the coherence of the norms, ideas and values entailed in them through the

lens of political theory. This will stimulate interest and exposure and will likely draw in more local authors, while also stimulating the practise of political theory in South African academia. This will also widen the audience and market the journal more effectively.

There is also a need to increase the journal's engagement with international politics such as international relations theory from the Global South.

The journal might consider providing a section for debate between scholars on the issues and thematic areas suggested above.

It is also recommended that more publicity be created for the journal in African universities to attract quality contributions on the African content. There could be special issues as African scholars are not contributing to social and theoretical discourse as much as the rest of the world. It would help to headhunt contributors from the continent in this regard.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**
 - iii. The Editorial Board should consider the recommendation of putting a succession plan in place as the current Editor was appointed in 2009.**
 - iv. In addition, the Panel recommends that the journal considers the suggested recommendations in this review.**
-



4.5 Security and Policing

4.5.1 African Journal on Conflict Resolution

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* (AJCR) seeks to publish articles and book reviews on subjects relating to conflict, its management and resolution, as well as peace-making, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding in Africa. The journal focuses on the field of conflict resolution, which is an interdisciplinary field. Of the 279 DHET-accredited journals in 2018, this is the only journal with 'conflict' in its title. It is, furthermore, one of only two journals (the other being *African Safety Promotion: A Journal of Injury and Violence Prevention*) dealing with the prevention, management and resolution of conflict, specifically as these affect the African continent. Because of its focus, the journal exposes the South African research community to the best writing on these issues emanating from Africa and further afield.

The primary target audience is scholars from the rest of Africa (50%), South Africa (32%), and elsewhere (18%). The journal has a wide reach and is freely available for download on the website of its publisher, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). Its readership is composed of a wide array of international institutional and individual subscribers. Of the AJCR's nearly 800 subscribers, 80% (or some 650) are international individuals or institutions. There is an even spread of tertiary institutional libraries and individuals including ambassadors and academic heads of department. The journal also counts some multilateral organisations and their senior staff, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the United Nations, among its subscribers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Managing Editor's reputation is adequate, and he is a nationally respected scholar. It is recommended that an Editor-in-Chief be appointed (someone with high standing from the discipline) to assist the Managing Editor, and to help give the journal strategic disciplinary direction and impact. Members of the Advisory Board have a good reputation and are diverse, including scholars from other countries. However, the Editorial Board should be expanded to include a few more female scholars.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 1999 and has a publication frequency of two issues per year and often publishes one special issue. The journal is available online at <http://www.accord.org.za/publications/ajcr>. It is accessed from 77 countries, of which 35 are African countries. The first regular issue is scheduled to appear by the middle of the year and the second by the end of the year. There have been no significant interruptions.

Over the three-year review period, 29 full articles and seven book reviews were published. The number of full article manuscripts received over the same period was 88 and book reviews was nine. Forty-nine full articles and two book reviews were rejected without peer review. A total number of ten full articles were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 59%.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Members of a standing Advisory Panel are invited to serve as reviewers. Peer reviewers with special knowledge of a particular subject or region are consulted on an ad hoc basis. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The journal rigorously implements valid reviewer critique and article improvement, but authors may give

reasons for not implementing some suggestions. At any rate, the criticisms and suggestions of the reviewers of each article are integrated into the feedback from the Editorial Team to the author(s) concerned. Peer reviewers occasionally receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and their assessments are saved in the correspondence file of each issue of the journal. Correspondence between the Editor(s) and peer reviewers is also saved in the files concerned. Twelve peer reviewers were used in one year, of which 50% had non-South African addresses. Peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's record system. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is eight months.

The journal is managed by the Managing Editor, who has been in office for 19 years. The Managing Editor was directly involved in the process of establishing the journal and subsequently has been managing and developing the journal. The period of appointment was not stipulated. The Editorial Board members handle the initial screening, and the advisory panel members do the actual peer reviewing. The Board also advises and gives input on editorial policies when necessary. The Editorial Board members do not hold office as such, but each peer reviewer is selected on the basis of their expertise as demanded by the subject matter of individual submissions. Over the 19 years, the total of 22 Editorial Advisory Board members had an average working period of eight and half years each and they can hold office for as long as they wish. Board members are not appointed competitively. They are appointed from inside and outside the country and provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines which are in line with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Reviewers are asked to declare if there is any conflict of interest when reviewing a certain article. There is no errata policy, but errata are published when necessary. Value-added features of the journal include critical editorials and analytical book reviews. Approximately 87% of the pages in each issue represents peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is of a high standard and includes articles from South African and international scholars. There is a good number of articles published a year. The articles are of the best work done in the field/discipline and the journal consistently keeps the focus on conflict resolution. The journal features good editorials (foreword) and book reviews.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are introduced by English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the copies under review. The citation practice is sound and good. The presentation, layout, style, and copy-editing are all good and professional. The website can be improved, and links should be added to pages about the Editor and the Editorial Board.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal has a strong regional output and is suitable for local graduate students and staff in the discipline. The journal is comparable with other leading international journals. The articles are thought-provoking, and the fact that the journal is open access and accessible online is of great benefit to scholars.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* is owned and published by ACCORD Education Trust. The regular print run of the journal is 1 000 copies per issue. While the design and layout are conducted in-house, language editing is outsourced to a language Editor. The actual printing of the journal

is outsourced to local printers. The international distribution is outsourced, and the local (RSA and Lesotho) distribution is conducted in-house. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship. However, the publisher, ACCORD, as a non-governmental organisation, receives core funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, which is then distributed across the organisation including to the Knowledge Production Department where AJCR is located. This general distribution of core funding received is then allocated to the cost associated with producing a journal of this nature, i.e. editing, layout and design, printing, and distribution.

The journal has 12 paying subscribers. It is difficult to gauge accurately the number of organisations as opposed to individuals as many of the individuals in the database are listed in their capacity as position-holders within organisations. There appears to be an even spread between individuals and organisations. There are no page or APCs. The journal uses a manual system for the management of the editorial workflow. Access is free online with no password protection and it is also not part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is reserved and vested in the journal. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

The journal is included in AJOL, Africa Portal, DHET, ISN Zurich, and Sabinet. Impact factors have not been determined and altmetric indicators are administered by Sabinet. The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. AJCR was independently peer reviewed by ASSAf in 2010.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The Advisory Board members should perhaps be appointed for a set period (e.g. five years), whereafter they can be re-appointed, depending on their contribution.

More female scholars should be appointed to the Board. Appointment of an Assistant Editor may help in more actively assisting authors to improve promising articles (guide/inspire authors to delve a bit deeper or place the argument in juxtaposition with the cutting-edge literature).

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
 - iii. **The Panel recommends that the journal should consider appointing an Editor-in-Chief of high standing to work alongside the Managing Editor and give the journal strategic disciplinary direction and impact. The Editorial Board should be expanded to include more female scholars.**
 - iv. **In addition, the Panel believes that the quality of the journal and the website can be improved. The impact and visibility of the journal should be improved by getting the journal indexed more widely**
-

4.5.2 African Security Review

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Security Review* (ASR) publishes articles on issues across the broad spectrum of human security in Africa. The ASR is affiliated with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), a pan-African human security policy think tank that aims to advance human security in Africa through evidence-based

policy advice, technical support and capacity building. The journal has a more interdisciplinary focus, aimed at broadening the discourse on human security within Africa.

The ASR encourages submissions from various perspectives (both traditional and innovative), different methodological backgrounds and divergent theoretical approaches, in order to broaden and widen cross-disciplinary discourse in the field of human security in Africa. The ASR publishes original empirical research, as well as academically rigorous analysis. The primary target audience is academics, researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

The ASR is available to readers in both print and online, and through various subsidiaries. It is also available to approximately 70 and 350 institutions and libraries in South Africa and the rest of Africa, respectively. The journal is available to almost 2 900 institutions and libraries as part of the various Taylor & Francis sales deals. In addition to these figures, the journal is available to over 300 institutions through EBSCOhost and to over 8 650 institutions through development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor is an experienced and respected researcher and knowledgeable in her field. Members of the Advisory Board are geographically well represented (Africa, USA, Australia, Afghanistan, UK) and have a good reputation, but the Board must consider adding more female scholars. This is a prestigious journal that is of good quality. It has an affiliation with the ISS and has a wide brief in Africa.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *African Security Review* was established in 1992 and is published quarterly. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform <http://www.tandfonline.com/rasr>. The journal received more than 110 000 page views and over 30 000 full-text downloads in 2014. It is read in 129 countries, of which more than 36 are African countries. This includes countries in the regions of Africa, Asia, Australasia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, northern, southern, and central Europe, as well as South Asia. The top 10 African countries were South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana, Algeria, Egypt, and Cameroon.

The journal is pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, September, and November and adheres strictly to the publication date. There have been no recorded interruptions to publication.

During the three-year review period, 74 full articles, eight book reviews, seven commentaries and nine editorials were published. A total of 179 full articles, one book review and five commentaries were received over the three-year review period. The overall rejection rate was 25%. There were 25 full articles, three commentaries and four essays rejected without peer review. Ten full articles and four essays rejected after peer review. Of the 84 peer-reviewed papers of all kinds published in the three-year review period, 54 (64%) of them had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Between two and six reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected for their expertise in the field of the submitted manuscript. They are selected from the journal's database of existing peer reviewers, through the ScholarOne manuscript peer review locator from the WoS, through referrals from invited peer reviewers who cannot review, or sourced from Google Scholar. Articles are submitted via ScholarOne and are processed through the double-blind peer-review system. Names and institutional metadata are blinded automatically by ScholarOne. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. If peer reviewers recommend reject and resubmit, major revision or minor revision, the paper is sent back to the author with the anonymous reviewer comments and suggestions. The revised manuscript is sent back to the same

reviewers to assess whether the author has made the necessary changes. The manuscript often goes through a second round of revision until the reviewers are satisfied, or the author has argued persuasively why certain revisions should not be made.

Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information, unless this information is requested. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2017, 71 reviewers were used of which 45 reviewers were non-South Africans. Peer review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is 180 days on average, and 140 days online.

The previous Editor had been in office since January 2017 until the competitive appointment of new Editors in May 2019 on a three-year renewable contract. Members of the Editorial Board have been in office since July 2014 for a period of three years. They were invited by the ISS and previous Editor to serve on the Board. The Board members handle peer review if they are invited to do so. Board members are from inside and outside the country and provide specific topical expertise.

There are editorial guidelines available online via this link: http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rasr20&page=instructions#.VakWp_mqpBc. A conflict-of-interest policy is also included, and authors are required to declare that there is no conflict of interest before they submit a manuscript for peer review. Guidelines are not formally aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines. However, none has been published in the term of the current or previous Editors.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and commentaries. Approximately 85–90% of the pages in each issue represents peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is excellent, and the journal has an international footprint with a good range and scope of topics covered. There is a good balance between the local and international articles. The articles contribute to the discipline and focus from a broad and varied perspective on matters relating to security. While the main focus of articles is on Africa, the journal also provides descriptions and evaluations of international intercessions. There is a good number of articles published a year. The journal features critical editorials and book reviews.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are introduced by English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the copies under review. The citation practice is good and includes a Chicago Style Guide. The presentation, layout, style and copy-editing are all professional.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal has a strong regional output and is suitable for local graduate students and staff in the discipline. The journal is comparable with other leading international journals and articles serve as exemplars and stimuli for advanced research. The articles are very topical, relevant, stimulating, well researched and set on sound scientific and methodological bases.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by Taylor & Francis in the UK in association with the ISS. The regular print run of the journal is approximately 110 copies per issue. Production is managed by Taylor & Francis and distribution in South Africa is handled by NISC (Pty) Ltd. The journal does not carry advertising. The Editor's stipend is paid by the publisher, Taylor & Francis.

Subscriptions to the journal are mostly from institutions. There are no page or APCs associated with the standard publishing track. The only exception is in cases where an author chooses to publish their article under an open access licence. Regional discounts are available for authors in sub-Saharan Africa. An online management system (ScholarOne) is used for the management of the editorial workflow. The journal is a hybrid journal, with open-access options available on request, and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

The journal has been published by Taylor & Francis since 2010 and was purchased by the publisher in 2015. It retains an affiliation with the ISS by way of an affiliation agreement. Authors are asked to transfer to the publisher the rights of copyright in the articles they contribute. This enables Taylor & Francis to ensure protection against infringement.

African Security Review is indexed by African Studies Abstracts Online (ASAO), Scopus, and WoS ESCI. The SNIP was 0.482 for 2018. Altmetric indicators are embedded on the Taylor & Francis platform. The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. The journal has been independently peer reviewed by the DHET.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: Additional female scholars should be appointed to the Editorial Board.

It was recommended that brief excerpts from successful theses and dissertations be published in the journal.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
 - ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform if it become open access.**
 - iii. **The Panel believes that the journal needs some measure of direction and coordination in terms of its editorial comments.**
-

4.5.3 Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Scientia Militaria investigates a broad spectrum of matters and issues relating to military affairs and publishes both discipline-based and interdisciplinary research. The South African research community is served by the journal's focus on military studies. Other publications, like the *African Security Review* or the *Strategic Review of Southern Africa*, place emphasis on security and strategic issues, respectively, while *Scientia Militaria* serves the academic community interested in military issues as well as the wider defence community.

The primary target audience traditionally has been both local and international scholars, with the international presence growing significantly in recent years. There is also interest from the local military community. With the growing importance of defence and military studies in Africa (rooted in the need for professional military forces and defence and security sector transformation), the African audience may grow. The widest possible reach for *Scientia Militaria* is sought not through subscriptions but rather

through making the journal publicly available as an open-access journal. The webpage of the journal provides the journal with maximum reach in South Africa, Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: This is a high-quality journal in an underrepresented area of research. The Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board are of high national and international disciplinary standing. The Editor-in-Chief is assisted by former Editors – an arrangement that works well and enhances the quality of the journal.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Scientia Militaria was originally established in 1969. It has been an academic peer-reviewed journal since 1997. Two issues are published per year. There are often one or more special or additional issues. *Scientia Militaria* is available online via this link: <http://scientiamilitaria.journals.ac.za/>. Aside from the journal's own website, the journal is also hosted electronically on DOAJ, AJOL, and on Sabinet African Journals. During 2017, on the AJOL platform alone, there were 52 609 article downloads from *Scientia Militaria*. According to monthly statistics from AJOL, over 100 countries accessed the journal. The number of African countries was uncertain at the time of the review. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in June and December. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 43 full articles, five review articles and 18 book reviews were published. No information was provided on the total number of manuscripts received over the same period. About 15% of manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 35% rejected after peer review. As an editorial policy, the Editors aspire to include two foreign (non-South African) peer-reviewed articles and at least one article by an African author from South Africa or elsewhere.

After careful reading by the Editor or members of the editorial committee, two peer reviewers are always approached per manuscript. In some cases, a third reviewer is used when needed. The selection of peer reviewers is based on their expertise. The journal makes use of a system of double-blind peer review and the name of the reviewers will only be made available to the authors with the written approval of the reviewer. In cases where a major review of the article is proposed and recommended by the reviewers, the Editorial Team requires the author(s) to submit a letter outlining precisely how they have integrated the proposed changes into the article before publication. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed and captured in a database. Each article is reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers. A minimum of six peer-reviewed articles are included in each edition. Thus, a minimum of 12 peer reviewers are utilised per edition. About a third of these had non-South African addresses. The proportion of non-SA reviewers depends on the content of the article. Defence and military studies are specialised fields of study and expertise is not always readily available in South Africa. The peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is 12 to 18 months.

The Editor has been in office for a period of two years and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was initially for two years. Members of the Editorial Board sometimes handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Some members of the Board have been in office longer than others and this depends on their individual expertise. The period of their appointment was not specified. An effort is made to be as inclusive as possible and to find a balance between local and foreign academics and between scholars in Africa, the traditional Western countries, BRICS countries, and other countries in the world.

There are editorial guidelines and "Notes to Contributors" which are aligned with ASSAf's Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review. There is also a clear code of

ethics to which the journal ascribes. A deliberate effort is made to minimise errors. There has never been a need to publish errata. However, would such a need arise, an erratum would be published.

The following value-added features are included in the journal: critical editorials, critical topical reviews, and analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is generally of a high standard and some articles are excellent, on par with the best international academic work. The journal includes articles from South African and international scholars. There is a good number of articles published a year and the articles are of the best work done in the field. The focus is thematic – military matters – but articles address a wide array of subjects (military history, technology, law, sociology, etc.) in relation to military science. The journal features good and useful editorials (foreword), topical reviews, scholarly correspondence, and book reviews.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are introduced by proper English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the copies under review. The citation practice is sound and good. The presentation, layout, style, and copy-editing are all professional.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal is suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline, but at the same time it is comparable with other leading international journals. It makes an important contribution to the discipline from South Africa and Africa. Articles are well researched, and the use of primary sources abounds. It functions as a high-quality scholarly outlet.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The Faculty of Military Science at Stellenbosch University is the title owner and the publisher. The print run depends on the cost of printing but is normally in the vicinity of 200 copies. The internet has become the primary platform for distribution. Production is outsourced to SUN MeDIA Stellenbosch. There is no advertising in the journal. A financial grant is received from the Dean of the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, which pays for services such as printing and language editing.

There are no paying subscribers. The journal charges an APC of R75 per page to cover publication costs. Fees are waived for foreign authors (non-South African based), authors publishing in their private capacity, and members of the Faculty of Military Science. In practice, since 2016, fees have been waived in every instance. The journal uses an online management system, uploads articles onto the website and a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is publicly available as an open-access journal.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright rests with the Faculty of Military Science as the publisher and there is no licence agreement with authors.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. The journal is using the services provided by AJOL to monitor altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently reviewed by DHET during the process of application for accreditation.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: The journal managers should consider appointing an Editorial Advisory Board with members from African countries other than South Africa. Some articles should be contextualised to the international arena and debates.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Editor should consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.5.4 Strategic Review for Southern Africa

Focus and Scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* engages in the strategic and political analysis of socio-political developments that impact on or provide lessons for southern Africa. The journal is a forum for inter- and multidisciplinary scholarly exchanges in the social sciences and publishes articles from a variety of academic disciplines in the humanities. It facilitates vigorous and enlightened exchange among scholars, policymakers, practitioners, (postgraduate) students, and activists, thereby contributing to a wider discourse related to the focus and scope summarised above, but also strengthening debate on, among others, democracy, human rights, security, good governance, and the rule of law.

The primary target audience is predominantly scholars in and from – mainly South(ern) – Africa but also an international scholarly community working on related issues. A number of national and international institutions receive hard copies of the journal for their libraries (often in exchange for their publications). Main readers are members of the local, regional, continental, and international scholarly community interested in the thematic focus of the journal. The South African scholarly community is well aware of the periodical.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board are of high academic standing. Academic titles or qualifications, and the institutional affiliations of the Board members should however be indicated. The Editorial Board is constituted mainly from the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria and the journal is an accredited journal of the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs in this department. For the most recent volumes and with the appointment of the new Editor-in-Chief, a new Editorial Board was formed, and this group included members from outside the University of Pretoria.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* was established in 1978 and publishes two issues per year. The journal is accessible online via this link: <http://www.up.ac.za/en/political-sciences/article/19718/strategic-review-for-southern-africa>. At the time of the review, the journal had no provisions in place to measure the visits and download records. The number of countries in which the journal was read was also unknown at the time of the review.

Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in May and November of each year and appear regularly on the scheduled dates with minor deviations of a month as a maximum, mainly due to unforeseen technical mishaps. There has never been any significant interruption.

During the three-year review period, 30 full articles, two review articles and 19 book reviews were published. Other published papers included 51 essays, nine analyses and reports, 13 comments, eight editorials and introductions, and two obituaries. The number of manuscripts received was around 90 full articles, of which some were edited into reports; 30 full article manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 10 after peer review. Between 50% and 60% of peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. The Editor-in-Chief reviews each submitted manuscript. Those submissions which do not meet the basic requirements are then rejected. Every submission considered to merit closer assessment is reviewed by another member of the editorial group. If considered of sufficient interest and quality, one or two external peer reviewers are involved. The selection of peer reviewers is based on the knowledge of competent scholars in the specific area(s) and personal communication, which secures a high degree of probability of receiving a positive response. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement is rigorous. Reviews are shared with the authors. The authors are invited to respond and to indicate how they are able and willing to address the matters raised. Authors are expected to either make the suggested revisions or argue convincingly if they feel the suggestions do not contribute to improvement.

Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. Such a database would be subject to highly individual and subjective judgements, which could create misunderstandings or contain unfair value judgements. But the journal has accumulated knowledge on reviewers within the editorial group, on which they base decisions on who should be approached for review. Around ten peer reviewers were used in one of the years under review. The number of these reviewers who had non-South African addresses was three or four. The peer review reports are not accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is six months as a maximum and the final published article is placed online once it is at the printers.

The Editor has been in office since January 2013. The appointment was part of the voluntary duties accepted when affiliated to the Department as Extraordinary Professor. The period of appointment was not specified. A new Editor took over in 2018. Members of the Editorial Board handle peer review when it is in the field of their expertise. They also provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The Board has been in office since January 2013, with minor fluctuations/changes since then. Their term of office was not specified. Members of the Editorial Board are affiliated to the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria. The current six members of the international Advisory Board are based in Accra, Windhoek, Addis Ababa, New York, London, and Nairobi. They were appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has only style guidelines for authors (articles and reviews) published, but an ethical code of conduct exists as a standard practice. This code includes that the Editor-in-Chief can only be the author of reviews and review articles and that his own publications cannot be published in the journal. It also ensures that contributions can only be reviewed by members of the same university as exceptions and not a regular practice. The journal does not have a conflict-of-interest policy in writing. The journal follows best practice, oriented at these editorial/policy guidelines, as also practised by leading international periodicals with a similar profile. During the three-year review period, the journal did not need to publish errata. Errata are published if mistakes have been made that merit the publication of an erratum.

The following value-added features are included in the journal: critical editorials, critical topical reviews, and analytical book reviews. The journal occasionally publishes essays, as well as debate articles, comments, and interventions on issues of social relevance related to the thematic focus of the journal. The percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is 70–80%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The overall academic quality of the articles is high, with a good balance between fields of research and regions in southern Africa (the focus of this journal), and also from abroad, e.g. the USA and the UK. Articles provide a good sample of the best work done in the disciplines covered, written by authors with international standing in their fields. Every issue features varying numbers of research articles, book reviews, essays, reports, scholarly debates, as well as some issues featuring special sections on current issues and inter-Africa relations.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are introduced by English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the copies under review. The citation practice is good. The presentation, layout, style, and copy-editing are all professional.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The overall professional presentation and accessibility of the journal are comparable with leading international journals in the field. The range of authors provides local graduate students with a wide range of perspectives from different academics across the globe. The articles are suitable for a general ongoing stimulus for both advanced researchers and local graduate students or young researchers in the discipline.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria. The regular print run is between 300 and 500 copies, at times higher (up to 800), depending on the subject. A print-ready (desk edited) copy is produced in-house (at the Department). Hard copies of the journal are also distributed by the Department. Only the printing and binding are outsourced to a commercial printer. There is no advertising in the journal and no financial sponsorship.

The number of paying subscribers is 30 local subscribers (six individuals and 24 institutions including subscription companies such as EBSCOhost) and five international subscribers (institutions). The numbers have gone down since the journal has been available online. Complimentary copies are sent to, amongst others, institutions with which the journal has publication exchange agreements, embassies in South Africa, government departments, other universities, media, individuals, and other companies and institutions. Recipients are mainly institutions, which in return send their journals/publications free of charge to the Department. The journal does not charge APCs. The journal uses an online management system to manage the editorial workflow. It is an open-access journal.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright rests with the authors. Authors are allowed to re-print/re-publish articles, but articles are published only if they have not been published nor are being considered for publication elsewhere. There is no licensing agreement with the authors.

The journal is indexed by the IBSS. There are no impact factors or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal went through a review process before it was added to the IBSS list of accredited journals and also went through a review process before being recognised as a peer-reviewed journal in South Africa.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: Abstracts should be provided for all articles on the landing webpage of each journal article instead of readers only being able to access the abstract once the entire article is opened. This will give the readers a preview of the article.

The database of peer reviewers should be upgraded, and the system for filing reports should be improved, in order to establish a proper record of these inputs for future reference should it become necessary.

Different particular focuses in different volumes of the journal could be provided for, e.g. geographical, particular activities, policing, security, cross-border migration, Francophobe themes in Africa.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
 - ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
 - iii. The Editor should consider the suggested recommendations for improvement.
-

4.5.5 South African Crime Quarterly

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

South African Crime Quarterly (SACQ) is an applied policy journal. Its audience includes policymakers, criminal justice practitioners and civil society researchers and analysts, including the academy. The purpose of the journal is to inform and influence policymaking on violence prevention, crime reduction and criminal justice. Articles submitted to SACQ are subject to double-blind peer review before publication.

South African Crime Quarterly is an interdisciplinary journal that promotes professional discourse and the publication of research on the subjects of crime, criminal justice, crime prevention, and related matters including state and non-state responses to crime and violence. South Africa is the primary focus for the journal but articles on the above-mentioned subjects that reflect research and analysis from other African countries are considered for publication, if they are of relevance to South Africa.

South African Crime Quarterly is one of a very small number of African journals in its field. It differs from other journals that fall into the broad field of criminology in that it really is interdisciplinary and covers a range of topical issues in the field. The journal has a strong developmental focus and supports first-time authors by working with them through several drafts of manuscripts. It also has worked very hard over the past two years to increase the number of contributions from previously disadvantaged scholars and researchers.

South African Crime Quarterly is aimed at a South African audience, but also has readers and contributors from other African countries and from the North. The journal is fully open access and accessible on the SciELO SA platform and on AJOL. It is freely downloadable from the ISS website. The journal prints 800 copies that are distributed to donors, subscribers, criminal justice practitioners, and policymakers (this number will reduce to 400 hard copies in 2018). The journal is also made available to all relevant parliamentary portfolio committees and launches many of the editions at public seminars where the authors present their papers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The Editorial Board should be broadened. The African representation is extremely weak while South African universities are also not well represented. Some individual members do enjoy a national disciplinary reputation but less so internationally.

The current Editor does not enjoy the full standing of an academic professor. There are too many articles by authors with a close affiliation to the Editor, which may create a perception of bias.

The Editorial Board consists of women with an interest mostly in gender issues. The journal should consider getting someone on board who is more interested in general crime in South Africa and has more of a background in criminology and not only in criminal justice. With reference to the name of the journal, it is notable that various members of the Editorial Board do not enjoy a profile within the landscape of the discipline-specific Criminological Society of Africa.

Questionnaire:

(Editorial process-related criteria)

South African Crime Quarterly was established in 2002 and is published four times a year. It is accessible online on the following platforms: <https://journals.assaf.org.za/sacq/index> and <https://www.issafrica.org/publications/south-african-crime-quarterly>. The journal had about 700 page views in 2015 and was accessed in 67 countries worldwide, of which 14 were African countries. The journal is published in March, June, September and December and issues appeared regularly on the scheduled dates. There have been no significant interruptions.

During the three-year review period, 48 full articles, three book reviews, one review essay, five interviews, two theoretical contributions, five case notes and 11 commentary and analysis were published. The number of manuscripts received totalled ± 140 articles. The number of manuscripts that were rejected without peer review was 21, and six after peer review. Nine of these peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected because of their expertise in the subject matter. The Editor has developed a large group of national and international reviewers to draw on and receives advice and support from the members of the Editorial Board when she needs to select reviewers. Experts are also asked for recommendations of reviewers. If a reviewer who is approached is unable to review an article, they are asked to suggest alternative reviewers. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The implementation of reviewer critique and article improvement is robust and rigorous. All reviewers receive complimentary hard copies of the journal and are thus able to check the outcome of reviews. They are all sent personalised messages from the Editor throughout the process. The journal maintains an internal database that includes an assessment on reviewer performance. The number of peer reviewers used in one year of the review period was 86. The proportion of these who had non-South African addresses was 20%. The peer-review reports are accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is four months and three months online. Both of these estimates vary quite a bit because the journal is committed to working with authors whose work requires a developmental component. For those authors, the time between submission and publication is longer.

The Editor was appointed in September 2017. The appointment was an internal process and the period is indefinite. Members of the Editorial Board are expected to review at least one article a year and also to provide advice on editorial policies and practices. They were appointed for an indefinite period in 2011, but this is something the journal is in the process of changing. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines available on their webpage. These are in the process of being reviewed and updated. The guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*, but the journal is considering alignment in the near future. The journal is in the process of developing a conflict-of-interest policy and has asked ASSAf for assistance in this regard. The journal does not have an errata policy in place. ASSAf will also be consulted to assist with developing this policy.

The following value-added features are included in the journal: critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, case notes, and interviews with specialists, policymakers and leaders in their field about topical issues. On average, 18 peer-reviewed articles are published annually; in each edition, the only content that is not peer reviewed is the editorial and the 'on the record' feature which is an interview.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is not consistently good. Some articles are described as good by the reviewers, but concerns were raised that articles are also "soapy", "not academic writing", and "opinion pieces". The journal presents with little evidence of theory. A reliance on secondary data and "own observations in practice" risks some content being relegated to 'opinion pieces' rather than being scholarly. Many articles do not indicate any methodology (of obtaining data) or any theoretical context. In the absence of multimethod research designs and comparative studies, the journal cannot be described as a journal with an interdisciplinary focus. With the exception of a very few studies, most of the field research published is qualitative in nature. With reference to the scope of qualitative research (low external validity) and the persistent theme across the different volumes in the journal to generalise on the basis of small non-random samples and qualitative data, the reliability and validity of the findings in the journal are considered questionable and problematic. This is of particular concern as the journal positions itself in the field amongst others as a tool for policymakers. The very basics of research methodology need to be revisited in terms of conclusions reached or recommendations formulated other than for more research.

The journal focuses on South Africa, but it rarely contains a comparative article on a system or a review/case study of another country. There is a general lack of articles on crime per se in the latest editions.

Case notes, book reviews and interviews in the journal are very informative and of a high quality. The editorials are also enlightening and help the readers to decide on the article's relevance regarding their interest field. The editorial also provides interesting comments on how the articles may relate to each other.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are introduced by English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the copies under review and there is no evidence of a policy on errata or record of corrections. The citation practice is good. The presentation, layout, style, and copy-editing are all professional.

The endnotes may hide the fact that statements are sometimes opinions by the author and not based on research. The effect is that scholars have to be careful when citing from the journal and decide whether it is a fact, an observation, a citation, or an opinion of the author. This is a potential weak point of the journal. There is no ethics policy provided by the journal.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability:

Consensus review: The journal is well suited for the disciplines of criminology, criminal justice, law, and to an extent, political science and cross-disciplinary studies with anthropology, psychology

and medicine (forensics). This draws authors and readership from a wide variety of disciplines and provides research literature to students and scholars.

Business aspects:

(Business-related criteria; bibliometric assessments)

The ISS and Centre for Law and Society at the University of Cape Town is the owner and publisher. The regular print run is 400 copies per issue. Copy-editing, layout and printing are outsourced. There is no advertising in the journal. The journal receives donor funding from the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Constitutionalism Fund, and the Ford Foundation. The journal has in the past also received grants from the Open Society Foundation of South Africa.

There are no paying subscribers. A total of 133 copies are distributed to institutions, five to individuals, seven to ISS Trustees, 18 to advisory council members, 47 to parliamentary portfolio committees, 32 to libraries, and eight to contributors. No article-processing or page fees are charged. The management of the editorial workflow is through ASSAf's OJS portal with manual system backup performed by the Editorial Team. The journal is free online with no password protection.

South African Crime Quarterly has been approached by international publishers (Routledge/Taylor & Francis) but has declined their offer because the journal is committed to providing open-access publication rather than placing its content behind paywalls. The journal is in the process of implementing a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence and will be using the ASSAf author form as soon as it is available. At the moment, copyright is held jointly by the ISS/University of Cape Town and authors. There is currently no licensing agreement with authors.

The journal is included on AJOL, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and SciELO SA. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are available on the journal's website. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been independently peer reviewed before by ASSAf during the accreditation process.

Suggested improvements:

Consensus review: In terms of editorial processes and the proffered publication frequency of the journal (four times a year), inconsistencies need to be avoided (see the publication frequency of 2019 where not all issues did appear, as evident from the online archive). The continuous publication model as well as Open Access Policy cited on the webpage of the journal can be considered innovative.

The Editors should be wary of publishing more than one of their articles in an issue that they are editing. In the absence of an open, competitive appointment process of both the Editor and Editorial Board, together with their indefinite appointment to the said positions, the journal can be best described as an 'in-house' journal with the potential to provide an unfair competitive advantage to certain stakeholders or interest groups, especially within an ideologically driven environment such as that of crime and criminal justice.

More rigour is recommended in conceptualising the focus of the journal. With reference to the focus of the journal, the very distinction between violence on the one hand and crime on the other presents as a false dichotomy. See terminology such as "crime and violence" or "violence prevention, crime reduction". In other words, violence constitutes crime. If a more critical approach is to be adapted, it is recommended to consider terminology such as 'abuse of power' to transcend a juridical definition or more 'narrow' orientation to conflict. It also may be advisable to broaden the scope of the journal to include more international authors from Africa and the Global South to advance regional relevance.

If the content of the articles under the new editorship is going to be more focused on criminal law and the implementation of the law and criminal justice process, it is recommended that the name of the journal be changed to indicate a focus on 'Criminal Justice'.

To help upcoming scholars to publish their research which may not be totally up to standard, because of lack of experience in both research and article writing, a section in the journal may be reserved for these articles, much like the section on case notes or book reviews. This may help to develop a new generation of authors who will better represent the population of South Africa.

It is commended that the journal subscribes now to ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. To protect the integrity of the literature an 'Errata, Corrigenda and Retraction' policy needs to be developed to operationalise the aforementioned *Code of Best Practice*. An erratum is the correction of an error introduced by the journal during editing or production. The author should be given an opportunity to approve an erratum before publication. A corrigendum is the correction of an error made by the author. Under an article retraction policy, articles may need to be retracted, removed or replaced in cases of plagiarism, flawed data or flawed conclusions. A notice of retraction should: 1) include the title and authors of the article, the reason for the retraction and who is retracting the article, 2) be published online and be linked to the online version of the article. Authors should have the right to appeal a decision on their submission if they believe the decision was unfair. To appeal a decision, it is recommended that the author/s submit a letter detailing the nature of the appeal and indicating why the decision is viewed as unfair.

A publishing agreement needs to be further developed as well as a conflict-of-interest document to be signed. This could be developed under the Submission Preparation Checklist and Author Guidelines sections of the journal.

The journal and authors need to provide evidence of ethical compliance when research involves human subjects (see the Singapore Statement on Research Ethics and Integrity Governance; Declaration of Helsinki (2013) and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights).

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list on condition that the suggested improvements are implemented by the end of 2021.**
 - ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform which is recognised/accredited by the DHET. If the journal does not attend to the suggested improvements, its retention on the SciELO SA platform would have to be reconsidered.**
 - iii. The Panel recommends that the journal should seriously consider reducing issues to two or three. The name of the journal should perhaps be changed to indicate a focus on 'Criminal Justice'. Otherwise more rigour is recommended in conceptualising the focus of the journal.**
 - iv. In addition, the Panel believes that the Editors should be wary of publishing more than one of their own articles in an issue that they are editing. An open, competitive appointment process of both the Editor and Editorial Board, together with a limited time appointment to the said positions are needed. Set criteria for research methodology and theory should be developed and implemented.**
-



APPENDIX A

Questionnaire Sent to Editors of Journals under Review

[Note: The questionnaire was revised in 2018 before the reviews took place.]

1. Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership, etc.:

- 1.1 What is the focus and scope of the journal (i.e. what does it say about this in your masthead)?
- 1.2 Is the journal's aim to focus on a specific discipline or field or does it (also) include an interdisciplinary focus?
- 1.3 How does the journal serve the South African research community in relation to its focus and scope?
- 1.4 Who are your primary target audiences (predominantly local scholars or also further afield)?
- 1.5 What is the journal's reach and how is the readership composed (i.e. international subscribers, institutions, and/or individuals in terms of numbers and/or percentages)?

2. Editorial process-related criteria:

- 2.1 When was the journal established?
- 2.2 What is the publication frequency of your journal, per year?
- 2.3 If online,
 - 2.3.1 What is its URL?
 - 2.3.2 What is the visit and download record?
 - 2.3.3 In how many countries is the journal read?
 - 2.3.4 In how many African countries is the journal read?
- 2.4 Scheduled issues:
 - 2.4.1 Are issues of your journal pre-scheduled to appear on given dates?
 - 2.4.2 If scheduled, do the issues in fact appear regularly on the scheduled dates?
- 2.5 Have there been significant interruptions in publication since the journal's inception? If so, provide details.
- 2.6 Peer-reviewed original papers:
 - 2.6.1 How many peer-reviewed original papers have you published during the last three years:
 - a. Full articles?
 - b. Letters?
 - c. Review articles?
 - d. Book reviews?
 - e. 'Conference papers'?
 - f. Other?
 - 2.6.2 How many manuscripts in each of the above categories were received in the last three years?
- 2.7 Rejection rate:
 - 2.7.1 Approximately how many manuscripts in each category were rejected without peer review (as a pre-peer review decision)?
 - 2.7.2 How many were rejected after peer review?
- 2.8 What proportion of peer-reviewed papers of all kinds that you published had at least one author with a non-South African address?
- 2.9 Peer reviewers:
 - 2.9.1 How many peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript?
 - 2.9.2 How are peer reviewers selected?

- 2.10 Is peer review conducted in a 'blind way', i.e. authors and institutions blinded out?
- 2.11 How rigorous is the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement?
- 2.12 Do peer reviewers receive follow-up information, e.g. outcomes of the reviews?
- 2.13 Is reviewer performance assessed and is such information captured in a database?
- 2.14 Total of peer reviewers:
 - 2.14.1 How many peer reviewers were used in total, in any one of the last three years?
 - 2.14.2 What proportion of these had non-South African addresses?
- 2.15 Are peer review reports accessibly retained in your records?
- 2.16 What is the average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication:
 - In print?
 - Online?
- 2.17 Editor/Editor-in-Chief:
 - 2.17.1 How long have you been Editor/Editor-in-Chief of this journal?
 - 2.17.2 Were you appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
 - 2.17.3 For what period have you been appointed?
- 2.18 Do members of your Editorial Board and/or Editorial Advisory Board:
 - 2.18.1 Handle peer review of individual manuscripts?
 - 2.18.2 Advise on editorial policies/practices?
 - 2.18.3 How long have they been in office?
 - Editorial Board:
 - Editorial Advisory Board:
 - 2.18.4 Are they appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
 - 2.18.5 For what period?
 - 2.18.6 From inside and outside the country?
 - 2.18.7 To provide specific topical expertise?
- 2.19 Policies:
 - 2.19.1 Do you have published editorial/policy guidelines? What is the policy? (Please send us a copy)
 - 2.19.2 Is there a conflict-of-interest policy? If so, please provide details.
 - 2.19.3 Have your editorial/policy guidelines been aligned with ASSAf's Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review?
- 2.20 Do you publish errata in all cases where errors have become apparent? What is your policy?
- 2.21 Does your journal contain value-added features such as:
 - Critical editorials?
 - 'News and Views' analyses of articles being published?
 - Critical topical reviews?
 - Analytical book reviews?
 - Correspondence on published articles?
 - Others?
- 2.22 What is the percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material?

3. Business-related criteria:

- 3.1 Who is the actual title owner (legally) of the journal? And the publisher?
- 3.2 What is the regular print run of your journal, if it is printed?
- 3.3 Is production and distribution outsourced? If so, provide details.

- 3.4 Do you carry advertising which is
 - Paid?
 - Unpaid?
- 3.5 Do you receive financial sponsorship(s)? If so, please list the sponsors and provide details.
- 3.6 What is the number of paying subscribers?
- 3.7 How many of the subscribers are organisations as opposed to individuals?
- 3.8 Do you impose page charges or article-processing charges on authors? If so, provide details.
- 3.9 How is the editorial workflow of the journal managed?
 - Online management system
 - Loading of articles onto web
 - Manual system
 - Other
- 3.10 If your journal appears online:
 - Is it free online (open access)?
 - Is it free online but password protected?
 - Is it part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service?
 - Is it part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (i.e. Medline)?
- 3.11 What is the journal's estimated total cost per annum?
- 3.12 Has the journal had offers to purchase from multinational publishers?
- 3.13 What are your copyright arrangements?
- 3.14 What licensing agreement do you have with authors?

4. Bibliometric assessments:

- 4.1 Could you provide us with a list of the indices in which the journal is indexed (including Web of Science and/or the IBSS, Google Scholar, Scopus as well as others)?
- 4.2 Have impact factors (e.g. Google Scholar, WoS or Scopus) ever been determined for your journal? If so, what were they?
- 4.3 Do you use any altmetric indicators (number of visits to journal website, number of downloads, citations on social media) to monitor the journal's 'performance'?
- 4.4 Are 'front details' for papers like titles, authors, addresses, affiliations and English abstracts mandatory?
- 4.5 Has your journal ever been independently peer reviewed before and by whom?

5. General:

- 5.1 Is there any other information or do you have any comments that may be useful to the Panel?
- 5.2 What do you regard as the main challenges that your journal and Editorial Team face?

APPENDIX B:

Requests to Independent Peer Reviewers

1. Do the hard copies of the last 2 – 3 years of issues of the journal reflect:

- 1.1 high national/international disciplinary reputations/standing of the Editor-in-Chief/ Associate Editors/members of the Editorial Board?
- 1.2 a high/good (general/average) quality of the articles accepted/published?
- 1.3 a (contextually) adequate/good number of articles per annum?
- 1.4 an (adequate/good) sample of the best work done in the country in the discipline/field?
- 1.5 a focus on local/regional kinds of materials/problems?
- 1.6 publication of articles by authors from across the country, and internationally?
- 1.7 useful additional scholarly features like editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence?
- 1.8 appropriate (English-language) abstracts for all articles?
- 1.9 suitable publication of errata?
- 1.10 good citation practice?
- 1.11 good presentation, design, layout, style, copy-editing interventions, images are used in an ethical manner?
- 1.12 suitability as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students/young staff in the discipline concerned?
- 1.13 some kind of comparability with leading international journals in the field?

2. Please list your suggestions for an improvement programme for the journal.

2021

Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in History, Philosophy and Politics

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Cite: Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) (2020) 'Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in History, Philosophy and Politics' doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/assaf.2021/0071>
<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11911/184>

Downloaded from ASSAf Research Repository, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)